NOTIFIKAZZJONI TAL-GVERN

Nru. 517

IR-REGOLI li ġejjin, li għandhom isehħu fis-Servizz Pubbliku, huma pubblikati għall-informazzjoni ta' kulħadd:

Struzzjonijiet fuq l-Uzu ta' Bnadar

1. Il-Kostituzzjoni tistabbilixxi illi l-bandiera Nazzjonali ta' Malta tikkonsisti f'żewq strixxi vertikali indiżis, bjażda ma' l-arblu u hamra n-naha ta' barra, b' rappreżentazzjoni tal-George Cross indawra bl-ahmar, fir-rokna ta' fuq ta' l-istrixxa l-bjażda; il-wisa ta' l-bandiera huwa wieħed u nofs tal-gholi taghha.

(a) L-Att ta' l-1975 dwar l-Arma u s-Sigilli Pubbliku ta' Malta jiddeskrivxi l-Arma ta' Malta bħala tarka li turi rappreżentazzjoni araldika ta' Bandiera Nazzjonali ta' Malta; fuq it-tarka kuruna murali kulur id-dheb b'pusterla u tmien turetti (hamsa minnhom biss jidhru) li tirrappreżenta l-fortifikazzjonijiet ta' Malta u tindika Belt Stat; u madwar it-tarka giełsata maghmula minn żewq ferghat, fil-lemin taghha, Żebbuga, fis-xellug taghha, Palma, simbolu ta' paċi u tradizzjonament asocijati ma' Malta, kollha fil-kulur veru taghhom u marbutin fit-tarf ta' isfel b'żigarella bjażda fuq quddiem u hamra fuq wara, li fuqha hemm mitkub il-kilem "Repubblika ta' Malta" b'ittiri kapitali suwed.

(b) Bil-Proklama tat-12 ta' Diċembro, 1988, giet stabbilita l-Bandiera Presiżenzjali ta' Malta. Din il-bandiera tittajjar fuq il-bini ta' residenzi uffiċjali u uffiċjiji tieghu u f'dawk l-okkażjonijiet kollha fejn huwa jkun preżenti. Tkun ta' l-istess proporzzjon daqs il-Bandiera Nazzjonali u tkun tikkonsisti fi sħof ikkal bl-Arma ta' Malta fin-nofs taħhha; u s-Salib ta' Malta ta' ieww id-deheb f'kull rokna.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

No. 517

THE following rules, operative within the Public Service, are being published for general information:

Instructions on the Use of Flags

1. The Constitution provides that the National Flag of Malta consists of two equal vertical stripes, white in the hoist and red in the fly, with a representation of the George Cross, edged with red, in the canton of the white stripe; the breadth of the flag is one and a half times its height.

(a) The Emblem of Malta is described by the Emblem and Public Seal of Malta Act 1975 as a shield showing an heraldic representation of the National Flag of Malta; above the shield a mural crown in gold with a sally port and eight turrets (five only being visible) representing the fortifications of Malta and denoting a City State; and around the shield a wreath of two branches the dexter of Olive, the sinister of Palm, symbols of peace and traditionally associated with Malta, all in their proper colours, tied at base with a white ribbon, backed red and upon which are written the words “Repubblika ta’ Malta” in capital letters in black.

(b) The Presidential Flag of Malta was introduced by Proclamation dated 12th December, 1988. This flag is flown on the President’s official residences and offices and on all occasions at which he is present. It has the same proportions as the National Flag and consists of a blue field with the Emblem of Malta at its centre; and a Maltese Cross in gold in each corner.
3. The National Flag of Malta, when carried in a procession with another flag or flags should be either on the right of the line of march, that is, the National Flag’s own right, or, if in a line of other flags, in front of the centre of that line.

(a) The National Flag, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall with crossed staffs, should be on the right, and its staff should be in front of the staff carrying the other flag.

(b) No person shall display any other flag equal, above, or in a position of superior prominence or honour in or place of the National Flag; provided, that nothing shall prevent the continuance of the practice of displaying the flags of organisations of which Malta is a member in positions of equal or superior prominence or honour with that of the National Flag of Malta; or of displaying the flags of
other countries in positions of equal prominence or
honour with that of the National Flag of Malta during
the visits of Heads of State or Government or when
international meetings are being held in Malta.

(c) The National Flag should be at the centre
and at the highest point of the group when a number
of flags are grouped and displayed from flagstaffs.

(d) When flags are flown from adjacent staffs,
the National Flag should be hoisted first and lowered
last. No flag or pennant may be placed above the
National Flag or to its right.

(e) When flags of two or more nations are
displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs
of the same height. The flags should be of equal size.
International usage forbids the display of the flag of
one nation above that of another nation.

(f) When the National Flag is flown from a staff
it should be hoisted to the peak of the staff unless it
is at half-mast.

(g) The National Flag, when flown at half-mast,
should be hoisted to the peak for an instant and then
slowly lowered to the half-mast position. It should
be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for
the day. By “half-mast” is meant lowering the
National Flag to half the distance between the top
and bottom of the flagstaff. Crepe streamers may
be affixed above the flag as a sign of mourning. Flags
are to be flown at half-mast on Government buildings
when instructions are so issued by the Office of the
Prime Minister.

(h) When the National Flag is displayed
otherwise than by being flown from a staff, it should
be displayed flat, with the ‘hoist’ on the left of the
audience, whether indoors or out, or so suspended
that its folds fall as free as though it were hoisted
upon a flagstaff.

(i) When flown from a staff in a public hall or
auditorium the national flag should occupy the
position of honour and be placed at the speaker’s
right as he faces the audience. Any other flag
displayed on the platform should be placed on the
speaker’s left as he faces the audience.

(j) When the National Flag is used to cover a
coffin, it should be so placed that the George Cross
is at the head and over the left shoulder. It should
not be allowed to touch the ground, nor be lowered
into the grave.
4. The National Flag of Malta should not be draped over any part of any vehicle.

(a) When in Malta the President shall fly his Personal Flag from the centre mast of the car and when on board a Maltese military vessel from the starboard yard. When the President is travelling in the same vehicle with someone of his own rank, the flag of the visiting Head of State shall have the courtesy position on the right side. When outside Malta he shall fly the National Flag from the right and his Personal Flag from the left of the car.

(b) The Prime Minister shall fly the National Flag from the centre mast of his car except when he is travelling in the same vehicle with someone of his own rank; in this case the flag of the visiting Head of Government shall have the courtesy position on the right side.

(c) Foreign Ambassadors accredited to Malta, to organisations based in Malta or to conferences being held in Malta shall normally fly their flags from the left side of the car. Visiting Heads of State or Government shall normally fly their flags from the centre mast of their cars although nothing shall prevent them from following the customs of their countries.

(d) The Commissioner of Police and the Commander of the Armed Forces may fly their pennants from the centre mast of their cars. Except as already provided above, and for the Archbishop of Malta who may fly his own flag from the centre mast of his car, no other person shall fly in Malta a flag or pennant on his car.

(e) In flying the National Flag on their cars, Maltese Ambassadors abroad shall follow the custom of the country to which they are accredited.

5. International maritime custom will be followed by vessels in Maltese territorial waters.

(a) Maltese military vessels shall fly the National Flag of Malta as their ensign.

(b) Maltese civilian vessels shall fly the Merchant Flag of Malta as their ensign.
6. The Emblem and Public Seal of Malta Act 1975 provides that it shall not be lawful for any person to publicly vilify by words, gestures, written matter, whether printed or not, or pictures or by some other visible means, or in any manner to deface, the National Flag of Malta or the Emblem of Malta. It further provides that it shall not be lawful to incorporate within any design, for any purpose whatsoever, without the written authority of the Prime Minister, or not in accordance with any condition contained in any such written authority, the National Flag, the Emblem or former Emblems of Malta.

(a) The National Flag should never have placed upon it, nor on any part of it, nor attached to it any mark, insignia, letter, word, figure, design, picture, or drawing of any nature.

(b) Except when ships are following international maritime custom, the National Flag should not be dipped to any person or thing. Regimental colours, local flags, and organisation or institutional flags are to be dipped to the National Flag as a mark of respect.

(c) The National Flag shall never be displayed with the George Cross down save as a signal of dire distress.

(d) The National Flag should not be used as the covering for a monument or commemorative plaque at unveiling ceremonies. It should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony but bunting of white and red, not in the proportions of the National Flag, should be used for the covering.

(e) The National Flag shall never be used for advertising purposes in any manner whatsoever. Advertising signs should not be fastened to a staff or halyard from which the National Flag is flown.

(f) The National Flag should never be used as drapery of any sort whatsoever, never drawn back, nor up, in folds, but always allowed to fly or fall free.

7. During the ceremony of hoisting or lowering the National Flag or when the National Flag is passing on parade or in a review, all persons present shall face the National Flag and stand to attention. Those present in uniform should render the military salute. When not in uniform, men should remove headdress. Foreigners should also stand to attention. Saluting the National Flag...
Flag in a moving column shall be rendered at the moment the National Flag passes.

8. Whenever the National Flag is painted on the side of a ship or aeroplane, the hoist should be towards the bow of the ship or front of the plane with the fly flowing aft.

25th July, 1990