

I assent.

(L.S.)

GEORGE ABELA
President

6th December, 2013

ACT No. XIX of 2013

AN ACT to amend the Ġieħ ir-Repubblika Act in order to provide for the increase in the number of members of the Xirka, to revisit the Grades of the Order, to amend the number of medals awarded and to revise the number of national events which shall be commemorated by the striking of medals.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

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| Short title. | 1. The short title of this Act is the <i>Ġieħ ir-Repubblika</i> (Amendment) Act, 2013, and this Act shall be read and construed as one with the <i>Ġieħ ir-Repubblika</i> Act, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act". |
| Cap. 251. | |
| Amendment of article 4 of the principal Act. | <p>2. Article 4 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:</p> <p>(a) sub-article (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">"(1) The President of Malta may appoint as members of the <i>Xirka</i> not more than three persons every two years.";</p> <p>(b) sub-articles (2) and (3) thereof shall be deleted; and</p> <p>(c) sub-articles (4) and (5) thereof shall be renumbered as sub-articles (2) and (3) respectively.</p> |

3. Article 8 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of article 8 of the principal Act.
- (a) paragraph (b) of sub-article (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(b) not more than two persons shall be appointed Companions of the Order in each year;"

- (b) paragraph (c) of sub-article (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(c) not more than three persons shall be appointed Officers of the Order in each year;"

- (c) paragraph (d) of sub-article (2) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(d) not more than ten persons shall be appointed ordinary members of the Order in each year.";

- (d) sub-article (3) thereof shall be deleted;

- (e) sub-article (4) thereof shall be renumbered as sub-article (3);

- (f) sub-article (5) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(4) The provisions of sub-articles (2) and (3) shall not apply to appointments of honorary members.";

- (g) sub-article (6) thereof shall be renumbered as sub-article (5); and

- (h) immediately after the sub-article (5) thereof, as renumbered, there shall be added the following new sub-article:

"(6) The President of Malta may award the honour of Companion of Honour of the Order even posthumously to a person who shall have served as Acting President of Malta for a period of not less than one year when the office of the President of Malta was vacant.".

4. Article 12 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows: Amendment of article 12 of the principal Act.

- (a) sub-article (1) thereof shall be substituted by the following:

"(1) The President of Malta may award the "Midalja għall-Qadi tar-Repubblika" to not more than ten Maltese citizens in any year.";

(b) sub-article (2) thereof shall be deleted;

(c) sub-article (3) thereof shall be renumbered as sub-article (2); and

(d) sub-article (2) thereof, as renumbered, shall be substituted by the following:

"(2) For the purposes of sub-article (1), no account shall be taken of any award made on an honorary basis.".

Amendment of article 15 of the principal Act.

5. Sub-article (3) of article 15 of the principal Act shall be substituted by the following:

"(3) No more than four national events shall be commemorated by the striking of medals in any period of ten years, and such medals shall only be struck to mark the national event itself, and its anniversaries of importance.".

Amendment of article 16 of the principal Act.

6. In article 16 of the principal Act immediately after sub-article (4) there shall be added the following new sub-article:

"(5) In exceptional circumstances the Distinguished Service Medal may be awarded to members of foreign military or police forces." "

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 100 of the 4th December, 2013.

ANGLU FARRUGIA

Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA

Clerk to the House of Representatives