

## **Unvalidated References:**

*National Identity Act 1971*

*National Identity Regulation*

*National Identity Act*

This reprint of this Statutory Instrument incorporates all amendments, if any, made before 25 November 2006 and in force at 1 July 2001.

.....  
Legislative Counsel  
Dated 25 November 2006

**INDEPENDENT STATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA.**

No.      of 1973.

***Rules Respecting the Use of the National Flag and the National Emblem***  
**1973**



**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.**

**PART I – PRELIMINARY.**

1. Application.

**PART II – RULES RESPECTING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG.**

***Division 1 – Preliminary.***

2. Application of Part II.
3. Official use.
4. Dignity of the flag.

***Division 2 – Display of the Flag.***

5. Position of the charges.
6. Position of honour.

***Division 3 – General.***

7. National flag flown with flags of other countries.
8. Right to fly National Flag.
9. Raising and lowering.
10. Hours of display.
11. Display at elections.
12. Half-masting.
13. Unveiling ceremony.
14. Distress signal.
15. Conduct on ceremonial occasions, during religious services, etc., when the flag is hoisted, lowered, etc.
16. Use for advertising purposes.
17. Disposal of National Flag.
18. United Nations Flag.
19. Sizes of flag.

**PART III – RULES RESPECTING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL EMBLEM.**

20. General rules as to use.
21. Stylized versions, etc.
22. Identification of emblem.

**PART IV – GENERAL.**

23. Descriptions of flag and emblem.
24. Situations not referred to in these Rules.

***Rules Respecting the Use of the National Flag and the National Emblem***

**1973**

MADE under the *National Identity Act 1971*.

Dated                      200 .

**PART I. – PRELIMINARY.**

**1. APPLICATION.**

Nothing in these Rules affects the operation of the *National Identity Regulation*.

**PART II. – RULES RESPECTING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG.**

***Division 1.***

***Preliminary.***

**2. APPLICATION OF PART II.**

The Rules in this Part apply to the flying of the National Flag by all private citizens and corporations on land. They do not apply to the flying of flags on aircraft, ships or other sea-going craft.

**3. OFFICIAL USE.**

The National Flag shall be flown or used, subject to these Rules, for all official purposes of the Government and on all occasions on which, and for all purposes for which, it is customary to fly or use a national flag or ensign. All residents of Papua New Guinea may fly the National Flag with due dignity at all times.

**4. DIGNITY OF THE FLAG.**

The National Flag should be displayed only in a manner befitting a national symbol; it should not be subjected to indignity, not displayed in a position inferior to any other flag or ensign. It should always be flown aloft and free.

***Division 2.***

***Display of the Flag.***

**5. POSITION OF THE CHARGES.**

The National Flag should be displayed as follows:–

- (a) On a staff—the Southern Cross to be in the position nearest the staff and furthest from the peak. When carried the flag should be aloft and free.
- (b) On a halyard—the Bird of Paradise to be uppermost, and the flag hoisted as closely as possible to the block with the halyard taut.
- (c) Flat against a wall—the Bird of Paradise to be in the upper right-hand corner as viewed by a person looking towards the wall.
- (d) Suspended vertically in the middle of a street—the Bird of Paradise should be towards the south in an east-west street, and towards the west in a north-south street, thus being on the left of a person facing east or south respectively.
- (e) When used to cover a casket at funerals a new flag should be used (if possible), the Southern Cross being over the right breast of the deceased. The flag should be removed before the casket is lowered into the ground.

**6. POSITION OF HONOUR.**

When displayed alone or with other flags the National Flag should take the following positions:—

- (a) When displayed alone—
  - (i) on a speaker's platform—
    - (A) flat against the wall—above and behind the speaker;
    - (B) on a staff—on the speaker's right as he faces the audience;
  - (ii) at a meeting when displayed from a staff which is not on the speaker's platform—at the right of the audience as they face the platform.
- (b) When displayed with the flags of one or more other countries or States—
  - (i) with the flag of another country or State on separate staffs—the National Flag should be flown on the right (i.e., on the left of a person facing the flag) and at the same height;
  - (ii) with another flag against a wall from cross-staffs—the National Flag should be on the right (i.e., on the left of a person facing the flag) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag;
  - (iii) with the flags of cities, towns or other areas or pennants of societies on the same halyard—the National Flag should always be at the peak;
  - (iv) in a semi-circle of flags—the National Flag should be in the centre;
  - (v) in a line of flags—the National Flag should be in the centre when one flag only is available. Where two flags are available the National Flag should be flown at either end of the line.

***Division 3.***

***General.***

**7. NATIONAL FLAG FLOWN WITH FLAGS OF OTHER COUNTRIES.**

When the National Flag is flown with the flags of other countries all flags should be flown on separate staffs and in equal position, no flag being flown higher than any other and all being the same size if possible. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace. The National Flag should, however, be hoisted first and lowered last, unless the number of flags permits of their being hoisted and lowered simultaneously.

**8. RIGHT TO FLY NATIONAL FLAG.**

All citizens may fly the National Flag at all times subject to these Rules, and it should also be displayed on public buildings in Papua New Guinea in accordance with directions issued from time to time by the Governor-General, acting with, and in

accordance with, the advice of the National Executive Council. There is a standing recommendation for the National Flag to be flown from public buildings on National Day.

**9. RAISING AND LOWERING.**

The National Flag should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.

**10. HOURS OF DISPLAY.**

The National Flag should be displayed from 8 a.m. to sunset. It may be displayed at night on special occasions but only where it is properly illuminated.

**11. DISPLAY AT ELECTIONS.**

The National Flag should be displayed where possible in or near every polling place on days when a vote is being taken in an election to the National Parliament or a Local Government Council.

**12. HALF-MASTING.**

(1) The National Flag is flown at the half-mast position as a sign of mourning.

(2) The flag is brought to the half-mast position by first hoisting it to the peak for an instant and then lowering it slowly to the half-mast position. The flag should again be hoisted to the peak before being hauled down for the day.

(3) The position of the flag when flying at half-mast will depend on the size of the flag and the length of the flag-staff. It is essential that it be lowered at least to a position recognizably "half-mast", so as to avoid any appearance of a flag which has accidentally fallen away from the track owing to loose halyard. A satisfactory position for half-mast would normally be when the top of the flag is one-third of the way down from the peak.

(4) Flags should be flown at half-mast when specially demanded by Her Majesty or the Governor-General.

(5) Where it is desired by local authorities in towns or villages in Papua New Guinea to fly the flag at half-mast as a sign of mourning following the death of a local notable it would be appropriate to do so on the day of the funeral. The flag should be hoisted to the peak after internment has taken place.

(6) Generally speaking, on days to which Section 8 applies it would be undesirable to fly flags at half-mast. If on these days it is intended to honour some distinguished person who is deceased, it would be appropriate for the flag to be flown at half-mast on the building in which the deceased is lying, and at the peak on other buildings. The flag on that building should be hoisted to the peak after the body has been removed.

**13. UNVEILING CEREMONY.**

The National Flag should form a distinctive feature of the ceremony of unveiling a statue or monument. It should be used as the covering of the statue or monument and during the unveiling ceremony it should not be permitted to touch the ground or floor.

**14. DISTRESS SIGNAL.**

To fly a flag upside down is a signal of distress. The National Flag should not therefore be displayed with the Bird of Paradise down on any occasion except as a signal of distress.

**15. CONDUCT ON CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS, DURING RELIGIOUS SERVICES, ETC., WHEN THE FLAG IS HOISTED, LOWERED, ETC.**

When the National Flag is hoisted or lowered or when it is carried in a parade or review, all persons present should face the flag, men should remove their hats and all should remain silent; persons in uniform should salute.

**16. USE FOR ADVERTISING PURPOSES.**

The National Flag should not be used for advertising purposes.

**17. DISPOSAL OF NATIONAL FLAG.**

When the National Flag becomes dilapidated and is no longer in a suitable condition for use, it should be destroyed in a dignified way by burning privately.

**18. UNITED NATIONS FLAG.**

Special rules have been promulgated covering the flying of the United Nations Flag. All members of the United Nations have agreed that on United Nations Day, 24 October, if one position only is available the United Nations Flag should be flown.

**19. SIZES OF FLAG.**

(1) The National Flag must always be in the proportion 4 in the fly to 3 in the hoist. The standard sizes at the hoist are 22-, 20-, 18-, 16-, 14-, 12-, 10-, 8-, 6-, 5-, 4-, and 3-breadths (a breadth being a breadth of bunting—i.e., 9 inches). However, any size is permissible when special uses or special circumstances make it necessary or desirable.

(2) For the purposes of the Government, 4-breadth (4 feet x 3 feet), 5-breadth (5 feet x 3 feet 9 inches) and 10-breadth (10 feet x 7 feet 6 inches) flags are the most usual sizes.

(3) When the National Flag is used as a pennant, as on a motor vehicle, the usual size is 10 inches x 7½ inches.

**PART III. – RULES RESPECTING THE USE OF THE NATIONAL EMBLEM.**

**20. GENERAL RULES AS TO USE.**

(1) The National Emblem should not normally be used except for official purposes. Applications for other uses should be made to the Department of the Prime Minister.

(2) The National Emblem is to be used for all official purposes of the Government and on all occasions on which, and for all purposes for which, it is customary to use a national emblem or national arms.

**21. STYLIZED VERSIONS, ETC.**

As necessary for typographical or reproduction purposes, simplified or stylized forms of the National Emblem may be used. The following is a stylized form which is approved for use—

**22. IDENTIFICATION OF EMBLEM.**

Where it is necessary, to identify the National Emblem the words “Papua New Guinea” may be printed (preferably in Gothic sans serif or similar lettering) in a shallow arc immediately below the Emblem as in the above stylized version.

**PART IV. – GENERAL.**

**23. DESCRIPTIONS OF FLAG AND EMBLEM.**

Detailed descriptions of the National Flag and the National Emblem are contained in the Schedules to the *National Identity Act* and were published in *Papua New Guinea Government Gazette* No. 1 of 1 July 1971. These should be followed when the National Flag or the National Emblem is being reproduced.

**24. SITUATIONS NOT REFERRED TO IN THESE RULES.**

In any case or circumstances not covered by these Rules, the National Flag and the National Emblem should be used in accordance with any directions or approvals given by the Governor-General, pending the formal making of further rules by the Head of State, acting on advice. Applications for any such direction or approval should be made to the Department of the Prime Minister.

*Rules Respecting the Use of the National Flag and the National  
Emblem 1973*