ARMED FORCES ACT

Introduction and title

1. (a) This Act lays down the responsibilities, duties, norms and principles to be adhered to, rules, inherent powers, immunities, privileges, the exercise of, and division of powers of the Maldivian Armed forces and establishes all other rules applicable to the Maldivian Armed forces.

(b) This Act shall be cited as the “Armed Forces Act”.

Objective of the Armed forces

2. Listed below are the main objectives of the Armed forces.

(a) to protect, uphold and maintain the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives and the Maldivian State;

(b) to protect and defend the independence and the sovereignty of the Republic of Maldives in accordance with the Republic’s Constitution;

(c) to protect the lawfully elected Government of the Republic of Maldives from any unlawful action that may in anyway diminish the stature of the Government of the Republic of Maldives;

(d) to take all necessary action in providing speedy and prompt assistance in all emergencies affecting the State.

Oath of the Armed forces

3. (a) Every person serving in the Armed forces shall take the oath stated in Schedule 1 of this Act, in order to accountably carry out all the duties and responsibilities stated in this Act.

(b) It is the solemn duty of every serviceman to continually abide by the oath stated in subsection (a).

Troops of the Armed forces

4. In accordance with this Act and regulations made pursuant to this Act, troops of the Armed forces shall exist in the Maldives.

Role of the Armed forces

5. (a) The Armed forces are a linked military force created by the Maldivian State, to carry out all the responsibilities, duties and obligations of the Armed forces in accordance with this Act and regulations made
pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Armed forces are a military force.

Main divisions of the Armed forces

6. (a) The military force specified in section 5 of this Act, encompasses the Armed forces responsible for the defense and security of the sea, land and air.

(b) The Minister has the discretion to allocate, organize and change the divisions of the Armed forces stated in subsection (a).

(c) The Minister has the discretion to alter or modify the Armed forces stated in subsection (a).

Responsibilities of the Armed forces

7. Listed below are the responsibilities of the Armed forces:

(a) to defend and protect the constitution of the Republic of Maldives and the Maldivian State;

(b) to defend and protect the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Maldives and to protect and maintain national security;

(c) to defend, protect and maintain territory of the Maldives and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Maldives;

(d) to lead and co-ordinate with the relevant Government authorities in assisting in protecting the lives and property of citizens in all natural disasters and at times of other grave dangers affecting the Maldives;

(e) to provide fire fighting services and to protect the lives and property of citizens in instances of fire;

(f) to carry out search and rescue of persons stranded at sea and to protect the lives and property of citizens in all instances of danger occurring on land or sea;

(g) to oversee the security and protection of the sea and airports of the Maldives;

(h) to advice and assist the Government in formulating the policies relevant to the defense and protection of independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Maldives;

(i) to collect, collate and analyze information relating to the defense and the protection of independence and sovereignty of the Republic of
Maldives or any matter which may jeopardize or diminish national security and to take all the necessary action in accordance to the relevant laws;

(j) to work towards demonstrating the dignity and integrity, pride and honor of the State of the Maldives, and to exhibit soldierly ability and military aptitude in international, national or formal functions;

(k) to obtain, securely maintain and make optimum use of equipment and means necessary for carrying out duties and responsibilities of the Armed forces;

(l) to research optimum techniques required to maintain standard and service levels of the Armed forces and to consult the Peoples Majills with this regard and organize and develop the Armed forces in the light of such research;

(m) to provide the requisite training and education to ensure that the Armed forces are honest and trustworthy, able and courageous, educated and skilled, and at all times unwaveringly ready to make sacrifices for the country in carrying out their duties and responsibilities;

(n) to carry out the work assigned to the Armed forces as provided for in the constitution and the laws of the Republic of Maldives, in accordance with the duties mandated to the Ministry responsible for the defense and security of the Republic of Maldives.

8. Listed are the main duties of the Armed forces:-

(a) to remain honest and trustworthy in defending the constitution of the Republic of Maldives, the State and the religion of Islam and to be prepared to sacrifice oneself in order to protect the country from enemies and insurgents;

(b) to comply fully with and obey all the laws and regulations of the Republic of Maldives;

(c) to obey the constitution, laws, rules and regulations of the Armed forces and commands and orders of superiors without hesitation;

(d) to act in accordance with the decorum and protocols necessary to maintain the dignity and reputation of the Armed forces;

(e) to perform all entrusted official tasks with due diligence, sincerity and securely;
9. The President is the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces.

(b) The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces shall have the authority at any time to give direct orders to the entire Armed forces, or a group of servicemen or to an individual serviceman of the Armed forces.

(c) The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces shall with the advice of the Minister, determine the names of the defense forces of the Maldives.

(d) The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces shall have the authority at any time, to make use of the lawful powers and discretion accorded to the Minister, Chief of Defense Force and any other commander of the Armed forces.

10. Unless and otherwise determined by the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces and made public, the Minister shall be the senior most person commanding the organization and operation of all matters relating to the Armed forces.

(b) The Minister shall determine the divisions required for the implementation of the responsibilities of the Armed forces and the work to be performed by each such division.

(c) Provided that the Minister is not acting in contravention of orders given by the Commander in Chief, the Minister shall have the authority to command the entire Armed forces, or a group of servicemen or an individual serviceman of the Armed forces.

(d) Provided that the Minister is not acting in contravention of the orders given by the Commander in Chief, the Minister has the power to assume all the powers and discretions accorded under the law to any commander of the Armed forces excepting only those powers awarded by law to the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces.

(e) The Minister is accountable to the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces and the Peoples Majlis for the exercise of the authority and discretion over the Armed forces accorded by law to the Minister and the discharge of his responsibilities as Minister.
Chief of Defense Force

11. (a) The Chief of Defense Force shall be the commander of the Armed forces and is the senior most person in charge of the organization and operation of all matters relating to the defense of the Republic of Maldives and all matters relating to the organization and operation of the Armed forces in carrying out their day to day duties and administration.

(b) It is the responsibility of the Chief of Defense Force to formulate the necessary rules and establish procedures and give the necessary commands and to do all that is incidental to ensure that servicemen know how to carry out their duties and responsibilities and to enhance and maintain the competence and aptitude of the Armed forces and to oversee and be accountable for the same.

(c) The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces shall appoint and dismiss the Chief of Defense Force.

(d) The Chief of Defense Force shall be appointed from within the ranks of the general Armed forces, giving priority to the seniority and the competence of the individual to execute the duties of the Chief of Defense Force.

(e) The Chief of Defense Force is accountable to the Minister for the exercise of the authority and discretion over the Armed forces accorded by law to the Chief of Defense Force and the discharge of his responsibilities as Chief of Defense Force.

The Vice Chief of Defense Force

12. (a) The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces has the discretion to appoint a Vice Chief of Defense Force from within the ranks of the general Armed forces in order to assist the Chief of Defense Force in the operation of matters of national security and in organizing all the day to day activities of the Armed forces.

(b) The main responsibility of the Vice Chief of Defense force is those responsibilities of the Chief of Defense Force that has been decided, written and handed over to the Vice Chief of Defense Force by the Minister in consultation with the Chief of Defense Force.

(c) In the absence of the Chief of Defense Force or where he is suspended or incapable of carrying out his responsibilities, or where his position has been vacated for any other reason, the Vice Chief of Defense Force shall have the authority to carry out the responsibilities of the Chief of Defense Force and to assume all the powers accorded to the Chief of Defense Force under this Act and any regulations made pursuant to this Act.
13. (a) There shall be a National Security Council to provide advice and consultation to the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces on all matters of national security. The Commander in Chief shall be the chair of this Council and if he is unable to attend a meeting of the council the Commander in Chief shall have the discretion to appoint the Vice President or the Minister to chair the meeting of the council.

(b) The National Security Council shall comprise of the Commander in Chief, if a Vice President is present then the Vice President, Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Atolls Development, Attorney General and the Chief of Defense Force.

(c) In addition to the members stated in subsection (b) the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces in accordance with the subject of the National Security Council Meeting has the discretion to appoint other members of his choice to the meeting, only to advice.

14. (a) There shall be an Advisory Council of the Armed forces compromising of senior ranking officers of the Armed forces appointed by the Minister, to provide advice and consultation to the Minister and the Chief of Defense Force on determining the policies of the administration and operational matters of the Armed forces. The Chief of Defense Force shall be the chair of the council.

(b) In addition to members appointed in accordance with subsection (a) by the Minister to determine the policies of administration and operational matters of the Armed forces, the Minister has the discretion to include other people of his choice from senior most officials of the Ministry mandated with the responsibility for national defense and security of Maldives, to give consultation to the Minister and Chief of Defense Force only.

15. (a) The Commander in Chief, can in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, determine at his discretion to authorize the establishment and management of Reserve troops, which shall be in addition to the Armed forces provided under Section 4 of this Act.

(b) The sections of this Act that are applicable to the servicemen of the Armed forces shall apply to a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops of the Armed forces stated in subsection (a), only when a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops commences active duty by order of the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces.
The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces may only call upon a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops of the Armed forces, to report for active duty by a special order made in any of the following circumstances:

1. To defend the Republic of Maldives in the event of war; or

2. to protect the State in the event of an Armed insurgency, revolution or civil unrest against the State; or

3. in the event that National Security Council advises the Commander in Chief that any of the events stated in subsection (1) and (2) may occur; or

4. where a state of emergency is declared pursuant to the powers accorded to the President under the Constitution of the Republic of Maldives; or

5. Where the Republic of Maldives is faced with a natural disaster.

The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces may order a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops of the Armed forces to report to active duty, where in the opinion of the Commander in chief of the Armed forces, the numbers of the general troops of the Armed forces are perceived to be insufficient to deal with the occurrence of any of the circumstances specified in subsection (c).

The Commander in Chief of the Armed forces shall within the period prescribed in the constitution or if no such period is stated in the constitution then within a maximum of 30 days, of ordering a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops of the Armed forces to assume active duty pursuant to subsection (c) and (d), shall inform the People’s Majils in writing of the reasons thereof.

Where a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops of the Armed forces assumes active duty in accordance with an order made by the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces pursuant to subsection (c), such a reservist or reservists of the Reserve troops shall cease their active duty on a special order made by the person who made the initial order.

In addition to the institutional training Reserve troops undertake, they shall undergo a minimum of two weeks refresher training courses per year. Further the reservists of the Reserve troops shall be released from their employer with full pay without termination for the training.

No action maybe brought against a serviceman in relation to any act
or omission in his official capacity, which is in compliance with a lawful order from a superior or in order to carry out the role and functions of a serviceman as provided for in this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, provided that such act or omission did not contravene the law and was without malafide intent.

(b) The immunity accorded to servicemen pursuant to subsection (a), shall be accorded to a serviceman even after discharge from the Armed forces provided that the serviceman was not dismissed pursuant to a condition specified in section 31 of this Act.

(c) A serviceman who suffers loss, damage or injury to himself or property shall be solely responsible for such loss, damage or injury where such loss, damage or injury was caused due to the serviceman’s disobedience of a lawful order given by a superior or due to an act committed in contravention of Act and regulation to fulfill the role of the Armed forces.

Powers of the Armed forces

17. (a) The powers and discretions accorded to the Armed forces pursuant to this Act and other laws and regulations of relevance to the role and functions of the Armed forces, may be utilized by every serviceman provided that the utilization of such powers is in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act and the laws and Constitution of the Republic of Maldives.

(b) Every serviceman shall with sincerity and integrity be accountable to the Chief of Defense Force, with regard to the utilization of the powers and discretions accorded to him and the discharge of his responsibilities.

Null and void orders

18. Any order that wholly or partially contravenes this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act or the constitution of the Maldives shall to the extent that they are contrary to the Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, be null and void.

Participation in political activities

19. No serviceman shall be a member of, or participate in activities of, or conduct himself in a manner such as to be seen to be associated with any political party.

Right to vote

20. The right to vote accorded to every citizen of the Republic of Maldives by the constitution shall be a right of every serviceman of the Armed forces.
Use and possession of weapons

21. In order to carry out their duties and responsibilities as provided for in this Act, the Armed forces shall have the authority to possess and make use of weapons, in accordance with the regulation on possession of weapons and the regulation on rules of engagement made pursuant to this Act.

Assisting police and other law enforcing bodies

22. (a) The Armed forces shall if requested and in accordance to the determined rules, assist the police and other law enforcement agencies to maintain public peace and public order.

(b) In assisting the police and other law enforcement agencies pursuant to subsection (a), the Armed forces are accorded all the lawful powers accorded to the police and other law enforcement agencies.

(c) The use of the powers accorded to the Armed forces pursuant to subsection (b) must be in accordance with the laws and regulations governing the use of such powers.

Right to request public assistance and the use of public property and things

23. (a) In the interest of national security or where there is a great threat to the life or property of a citizen, the Armed forces shall have the right to request assistance from a citizen or an entity or an organization and in such circumstances, to requisition and make use of the property, vehicles or other items belonging to a citizen or an entity or an organization.

(b) Compensation must be provided to the person, for any damage caused to the property used, pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) It is an offence under this Act for any person to refuse to provide the assistance requested by the Armed forces in any of the circumstances specified in subsection (a).

Acquiring and withholding information relating to national security

24. (a) A special group tasked from within the Armed forces has the power and discretion to acquire information necessary and relevant to the protection of national security and public order of Maldives.

(b) It is an offence under this Act, for any person to provide to an unauthorized person, any information that may jeopardize or diminish national security and public order.

(c) Information acquired in the course of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the Armed forces shall not be conveyed except to the persons or in the circumstances stated hereunder:-
1. In order for the duties and responsibilities of the Armed forces to be carried out, to the commander in Chief of the Armed forces, the Minister, the National Security Council and the Chief of Defense Force;

2. to the senior most person in charge of law enforcement agencies;

3. to a court of law handling an action being brought due to a decision of the Armed forces or the Ministry;

4. where the information has been made public by official sources.

| Giving employment and training | 25. | (a) The Minister shall oversee the employment of persons, assignment of posts, promotions and de-motions, determination of place of work or employment and changes to the place of work or employment in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Minister shall organize and administer the training of the Armed forces as provided for in the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

(c) The Minister where he deems fit, may delegate to the Chief of Defense Force the organization and administration of all matters relating to the employment and training of the Armed forces as stipulated in subsection (a) and (b).

| Designation of posts and ranks within the Armed forces | 26. | The Minister shall establish and designate posts and ranks within the Armed forces in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

| Award of promotions and medal of honor to the Armed forces | 27. | (a) The Minister shall determine the award of promotions and medal of honor to the Armed forces in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

(b) The Minister must establish an advisory board to advise the Minister with regard to the award of promotions and medal of honor to the servicemen of the Armed forces and to organize and implement the same as stipulated in subsection (a).

| Unauthorized use of uniform and medal of honor of the Armed forces | 28. | It is an offence under this Act for a person to act in a manner stated in subsection (a), (b) and (c), unless he acted with permission from a person authorized to give such permission under the regulation made pursuant to this Act:-

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(a) to produce, sell or use an official uniform or medal of honor authorized by regulation for use by the Armed forces;

(b) to produce or use an official uniform or medal of honor authorized by regulation for use by the Armed forces or a duplicate of the same with the intention of deceiving a person or persons;

(c) to give an official uniform or a medal of honor authorized by regulation for use by the Armed forces to a person who is not authorized to make use of the same.

Resignation from the employment of Armed forces

29. (a) Any serviceman, except for the Chief of Defense Force and the Vice Chief of Defense Force, may resign from his post by submitting a letter of resignation in writing, to the Minister specifying the reason for resignation. Further such person shall carry out his duties until such time as the Minister informs him that his resignation has been accepted.

(b) The Chief of Defense Force or the Vice Chief of Defense Force may resign from their post by submitting letter of resignation in writing to the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces, specifying the reason for resignation. Further such person shall carry out his duties until such time as the Commander in Chief of the Armed forces informs him that his resignation has been accepted.

Honorable discharge

30. (a) Except those who are dismissed from the Armed forces pursuant to the circumstances specified in section 31, the Minister has the authority, pursuant to the retirement regulation made under this Act, to declare a serviceman honorably discharged.

(b) The following circumstances of retirement must be included in the retirement regulation for servicemen of the Armed forces.

1. On completion of the determined age for the particular post.

2. On being at the same post for a determined period.

3. Unable to perform on grounds of medical condition.

4. On self request.

(c) The Minister has the discretion, to grant special privileges and immunities, in accordance with this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, to servicemen honorably discharged as provided for in subsection (a).
(d) The retirement age for a serviceman of the Armed forces is 60 years. This section shall be enforced after a period of 1 (year) from the date of enforcement of this Act.

(e) A serviceman dismissed from the Armed forces pursuant to circumstances specified in section 31 of this Act, shall not be eligible for any of the privileges or immunities provided for in subsection (b).

Termination of service 31. The minister has the power and discretion to dismiss a serviceman for deserting work or for misconduct or for commission of an offence or for contravening this Act or the regulations made pursuant to this Act.

Deserting work 32. (a) A serviceman who deserts from work or attempts to desert from work shall be penalized as prescribed in this Act or regulations made pursuant to this Act.

(b) A serviceman is deemed a deserter from work as provided in subsection (a), if he excuses himself from responsibilities assigned by the Armed forces and leaves the duties assigned by the Armed forces without authorization, or if he fails to report for work for 14 (fourteen) days without authorization, or if he fails to report to work in contravention of an order given by his superior in an emergency situation, or objects to report to work, or if he knowingly deserts or neglects in an operation involving facing enemies and insurgents.

(c) It is an offense under this Act for any person to solicit, incite or assist a serviceman to desert work as stipulated in subsection (a).

Mutiny within the Armed forces 33. It is an offense for any serviceman under this Act to create a mutiny within the Armed forces, or to create discord, or to conspire to commit such an act, or to incite the commission of such an act, or to have knowledge of other persons committing such an act, or conspiring to commit such an act and fails to inform a superior of the same or delays in conveying such information.

Privileges accorded to the Armed forces 34. The Minister shall as provided for in the regulations made pursuant to this Act, provide for all the privileges to be accorded to the Armed forces.

Compensation for serious injuries or disability 35. Where a serviceman is injured or suffers a disability during the course of his service, just compensation will be provided in accordance to the regulations made pursuant to this Act.
sustained in the
course of service

Welfare fund

36. (a) The Minister has the discretion to create a welfare fund in order to improve the welfare of the Armed forces, and to authorize spending from such fund for the welfare purposes of the Armed forces.

(b) The Minister where he deems fit, may at his discretion, assign to the Chief of Defense Force the creation and operation of the welfare fund, mentioned in subsection (a).

(c) In order to improve and further develop the welfare fund mentioned in subsection (a) and with a view of the Armed forces and families of the Armed forces and honorably discharged servicemen, it may engage in trade activities in accordance with law and regulations.

(d) The Minister has the discretion to authorize, as provided for in the relevant laws, the formation of corporate entities, associations and organizations from within the Armed forces, to carry out the trade activities mentioned in subsection (c).

Medical clinic of the Armed forces

37. Medical clinics can be established and operated to provide medical services to the Armed forces and families of the Armed forces and honorably discharged servicemen.

Acquire and purchase of relevant materials, facilities and weapons required for the Armed forces to carry out their role

38. In accordance with the laws, regulations and rules that govern state assets and finances and without contravening international conventions that the Maldives is a party to, the armed forces shall have the authority to acquire and purchase all materials, facilities and weapons required for the Armed forces to carry out their role.

Registration of military vehicles

39. (a) All vehicles land, sea or air used for military purposes of the Armed forces shall be exempt from the registration process as stipulated for in the general transport law of the Maldives.

(b) The vehicles mentioned in subsection (a), must in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act be registered with the Ministry mandated with the responsibility of national security and defense of the Maldives.
40. (a) The communication equipments acquired for military purposes under this Act shall be exempt from the registration process as stipulated for in the communication laws of the Maldives.

(b) The communication equipments mentioned in subsection (a), must in accordance with the regulations made pursuant to this Act be registered with the Ministry mandated with the responsibility of national security and defense of the Maldives.

(c) There must be exclusive frequency band and frequencies for the Armed forces to be used for military purposes.

41. (a) While on the course of duty in the capacity of captain of a vessel of the Coast Guard of the Armed forces, the captain has the discretion to detain and arrest any vessel and persons on such vessel, where the captain reasonably believes that they were carrying out or attempting to carry out any one of the following activities stated below:

1. engaging in an activity at sea which may endanger or diminish the independence, sovereignty or national security of the Republic of Maldives; or

2. entering or fishing in territory or the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Maldives in contravention of the laws of the Republic of Maldives; or

3. contravening maritime laws and regulations and the fisheries laws and regulations of the Republic of Maldives; or

4. attempting to smuggle in or out of the Republic of Maldives any item that is prohibited from being imported or exported from the Maldives; or

5. attempting to smuggle in or out of the Republic of Maldives in contravention of the laws and regulations, any item that may be lawfully imported or exported from the Maldives in accordance with the laws and regulations; or

6. contravening the laws and regulations prescribed to customs, financial, immigration and health within the contiguous zone of the Republic of Maldives; or

7. pollute and damage, or destroy the shores and contiguous zone of the Republic of Maldives or to destroy, or attempt to diminish the value
and benefit that may obtained from anything which may have an economic or social value; or

(8) obstructing and preventing freedom of movement within the territorial waters of the Republic of Maldives.

(b) In order to carry out the responsibilities mentioned in subsection (a), the captain of a vessel of the Coast Guard of the Armed forces, has the authority, in accordance with the laws and regulations to stop vessels, search and seize any illegal property, goods, documents, weapons and any other such items found on the vessel or persons on board such vessel and to detain until they can be handed over to the police to investigate matters involving such goods and persons.

(c) Any persons detained and any items seized by the Armed forces, pursuant to subsection (a) and (b), must be handed over to police to investigate matters involving such goods and persons as soon as practicable.

Receiving damage, nuisance or injury from one serviceman to another

42. (a) Every serviceman has the discretion to lodge a complaint with the Minister in order to obtain a resolution where he has suffered damage, nuisance or injury from another serviceman.

(b) Where a complaint has been lodged with the Minister as stated in subsection (a), the complaint must be submitted to a special committee designed to handle such complaints and the matter must be investigated and necessary action must be taken in accordance with the regulation made under this Act.

Military police

43. The Minister must establish military police from within the Armed forces, to investigate offences committed by servicemen and to investigate miscellaneous issues inside the Armed forces and take necessary actions, to take safety measures at military institutions and during military activities and to find deserters of work and further during times of war to take all matters relating to prisoners of war.

Limits of penalties prescribed for Armed forces for committing administrative offences

44. (a) A serviceman, who contravenes the conduct prescribed in this Act and the regulations made pursuant to this Act, shall be subject to an administrative penalty that is commensurate to the offence, as provided for in the “Regulation on administrative penalties for offences committed by servicemen” made pursuant to this Act.
(b) The imposition of an administrative penalty as provided for in subsection (a) does not prevent or exclude the pressing of criminal charges.

(c) The penalties prescribed in the regulation stated in subsection (a), must be within the following limits:-

(1) a fine of no less than MRF 10 (ten) and not exceeding MRF 25,000 (twenty five thousand);

(2) arrest for a period of not less than 1 (one) day and not more than 220 (one hundred and twenty) days, in a institution of the Armed forces;

(3) arrest for a period of not less than 1 (one) day and not more than 120 (one hundred and twenty) days, in a institution of the Armed forces such that the person has no dealings generally with other persons;

(4) arrest for a period of not less than 5 (days) and not more than 90 (ninety) days, with the imposition of hard labor, in a institution or building of the Armed forces on an island other than his usual island of domicile;

(5) demotion (to a lower rank);

(6) termination of service;

(7) termination of service and instituting proceedings against such person.

Penalty 45. The penalty for any offence for which a specific penalty has not been prescribed in this Act is the imposition of a fine not exceeding MRF 25,000 (twenty five thousand) or imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 1 (one) year, or the imposition of a fine not exceeding MRF 25,000 (twenty five thousand) and imprisonment in jail for a period not exceeding 1 (one) year.

Regulations 46. (a) The Minister shall formulate and implement all regulations required to be made pursuant to this Act. The Minister where he deems fit, has the authority to delegate to the Chief of General Force, the formulation and implementation of certain regulations required to be made pursuant to this Act.

(b) The following regulations shall be made and implemented within 6 (six) months from the date on which this Act is passed into law, assented and published in the Maldivian gazette:-
(1) General regulation of the Armed forces;
(2) Code of conduct and code of ethics;
(3) Regulation on use of weapons;
(4) Regulation on rules of engagement;
(5) Regulation on employment of Armed forces;
(6) Regulation on uniform of the Armed forces;
(7) Regulation on training of Armed forces;
(8) Regulation on establishment, maintenance and operation of Reserve troops of the Armed forces;
(9) Regulation on the registration of military vehicles and vessels;
(10) Regulation on administrative penalties for offences committed by servicemen;
(11) Regulation on retirement;
(12) Regulation on dismissal from the Armed forces;
(13) Regulation on promotions and award of medals of honor in the Armed forces;
(14) Regulation on leave and absence from work;
(15) Regulation on possession and use of identity cards of the Armed forces;
(16) Regulation on investigating complaints and taking necessary actions with regard to complaints made against servicemen;
(17) Regulation on auditing of the Armed forces.

Date of coming into effect of this Act 47. This Act shall come into force 3 (three) months from the date on which this Act is passed into law, assented to and published in the Maldivian gazette.

Interpretation 48. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words shall mean:-
(a) "Minister" shall mean the Minister in charge of the Ministry mandated with defense and national security of the Republic of Maldives or the senior most people in charge of the administration of such Ministry.

(b) "Active duty" shall mean only being employed within the Armed forces in order to discharge the duties and responsibilities of the Armed forces as stipulated in this Act.

(c) "Military weapons" shall mean gunpowder or weapons consisting of such dangerous chemicals, and any weapon capable of causing serious injury or damage to persons or property.

(d) "Commander" refers to the senior most officers in charge of the Armed forces.

(e) "Harbor" refers to international and regional harbors as determined by the Government.

(f) "Mutiny in the Armed forces" refers to a person who on being a serviceman of the Armed forces participates with another serviceman or a party of the Armed forces and showing force or threatening show of force or with the same intention in relation to the serviceman's duties and assigned tasks and in times of war in a situation where you have to face enemies and insurgents, showing disobedience to assigned work and orders and motivating others to commit such acts. Further it shall be considered as "Mutiny in the Armed forces" under this Act for a serviceman or a large section of servicemen to attempt to commit any of the following acts.

(1) To violate a right given by the Armed forces to your superior or senior most people.

(2) In times of war involving facing enemies, disobeying orders issued by your superiors and not attending assigned task and duties.

(3) Obstructing the allocated duties and assigned task of the Armed forces.

(4) Disobeying and showing of force to a serviceman of the Armed forces on duty.

(5) To forcefully try to enter or to show force, threat and try to enter by oneself or to let someone else enter into a place that a serviceman of the Armed forces is stationed for duty.

(g) "Sedation" refers to work done to create disturbances or creating disturbances or sedating among servicemen of the Armed forces by saying something orally or by writing or by action or even by direction.
(h) "Protection of national security" refers to engaging to protect the state from external and internal activities faced by the Maldives that causes great damage to the whole country or large sections of the society and from different calamities faced by the nation.

(i) "General officers" refers to officers who are ranked as a minimum as Brigadiers or senior ranked officers.

(j) "Regulation on rules of engagement" refers to a regulation establishing the military powers on the rules, limits, restraint of force, methods of attack and things such as instances where weapons can be used if faced with parties who are in violation of the law or enemy forces.