



PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

MINIMUM QUALIFYING INTERVAL BETWEEN AWARDS

In most Honours Systems, a recipient does not personally apply for the next award. Instead, they are nominated by others, and the Honours and Awards Council determines whether sufficient additional merit has been demonstrated since the previous award.

A minimum qualifying interval between awards is to preserve the prestige of the system. A minimum period interval with provision for exceptional cases would provide a balanced and credible standard for Honours and Awards Council to consider.

1. Recommended Progression Intervals

Type of Advancement	Recommended Minimum Interval
Promotion within the same Order (e.g., Member to Officer)	5 years
Advancement by one grade in a higher Order	5–7 years
Appointment to a different Order for substantially different services	3–5 years
Award of a Gallantry or Bravery decoration	No minimum interval
Award of a Campaign or Service Medal	No minimum interval
Exceptional or eminent national service	Interval may be waived by the Sovereign or Head of State on recommendation of the Council

2. Interval Between Awards

- a) Except as otherwise provided, a person who has received an honour shall not be considered for appointment, promotion, or advancement to a higher grade within the same Order until a period of **five (5) years** has elapsed from the date of investiture.
- b) The Council may recommend consideration before the expiry of five years where:
 - The recipient has rendered service of an exceptional or nationally significant character;

- The award relates to gallantry, bravery, or distinguished service in hazardous circumstances; or
- Special circumstances exist that justify an earlier advancement.

c) The five-year interval shall not apply to:

- Medals awarded for participation in campaigns, commemorative events, or long service;
- Posthumous awards;
- Awards conferred at the discretion of the Head of State upon the advice of the National Executive Council.

3. Principle of Advancement

Honours are not rewards for longevity alone, but recognition of further distinguished service rendered since the previous award.

Advancement Matrix

Current Award	Eligible for Consideration After	Conditions
Medal level award	5 years	Continued meritorious service
Lower grade of an Order	5 years	Significant additional achievements
Higher grade of the same Order	7 years	Outstanding leadership at provincial or national level
Highest grades of an Order	10 years	Sustained national or international distinction
Gallantry decoration	No prescribed interval	Each act assessed independently
Posthumous award	Not applicable	Exceptional service or sacrifice

4. Assessment Questions for the Council - Before recommending an advancement, the Council will make assessment based on the following questions:

- What new service has been rendered since the last award?
- Has the nominee assumed greater responsibilities or leadership roles?
- Has the impact of the nominee's service expanded from Local to Provincial, Provincial to National, or National to International significance?
- Has at least five years elapsed since the previous investiture?
- Are there exceptional circumstances warranting a waiver of the normal interval?

5. Advancement and Subsequent Awards

- a) A recipient of an honour shall normally not be considered for advancement or appointment to a higher grade within the same Order until at least five years have elapsed from the date of the last investiture.
- b) Advancement shall not be automatic and shall be based upon demonstrable additional service of a higher degree of merit than that previously recognised.

- c) The Honours and Awards Council may waive the prescribed interval where it is satisfied that the nominee has rendered service of exceptional national significance.
- d) No person shall be advanced more than one grade within the same Order during any five-year period, except with the approval of the Head of Government or State acting on the advice of the National Executive Council.

This approach will preserve the integrity of Papua New Guinea Honours and Awards System and defensible criteria for assessing repeat nominations.