

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE PARLIAMENT (MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES) (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Parliament (Members' Expenses and Allowances Act) [CAP 109].

Item 1 repeals section 3 and substitutes it with a new section 3 to:

- provide that a Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to be paid a responsibility allowance and constituency allowance;
- include a table setting out the Grades of the responsibility allowance;
- set out the amount of the constituency allowance;
- provide that subject to the availability of funds from the Government, the Parliamentary Committee on Privilege, Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Rights is to determine when the Grades are to be paid and determine the rate of the constituency allowance;
- provide that the constituency allowance is to be excluded from any calculation of the contributions to the Vanuatu National Provident Fund and gratuity payment.

Item 2 repeals subsections 4(2) and (3) and substitutes it with new subsections 4(2) and (3). These subsections provide that a Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to be paid a sitting allowance at a rate of VT7,500 for each day that Parliament or any of its committee meets. A Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is not entitled to the sitting allowance if such member has not attended the sitting of Parliament or any of its committee.

Item 3 inserts 3 new sections, 4A, 4B and 4C after section 4. Section 4A provides for a touring allowance in which a Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to, for the purpose of touring the islands within Vanuatu. The touring allowances are categorised into zones which are set out in a table under this section.

Section 4B provides that a Member of Parliament (other than the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to an accommodation allowance for the duration of a session of Parliament. However, if this entitlement is not available, such member is entitled to be paid

VT7, 500 per day to meet his or her accommodation needs, for the duration of a session of Parliament.

Section 4C provides that a Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is not entitled to take home pay allowances. These allowances include:

- child, family, spouse allowances; and
- cost of living allowance; and
- entertainment allowance; and
- fuel allowance; and
- housing allowance; and
- telephone allowance.

Prime Minister



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**BILL FOR THE
PARLIAMENT (MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND
ALLOWANCES) (AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. OF 2017**

Arrangement of Sections

- 1 Amendment Error! Bookmark not defined.**
- 2 Commencement..... Error! Bookmark not defined.**

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE PARLIAMENT (MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES) (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2017

An Act to amend the Parliament (Members' Expenses and Allowances) Act [CAP 109].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Parliament (Members' Expenses and Allowances) Act [CAP 109] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF PARLIAMENT (MEMBERS' EXPENSES AND ALLOWANCES) ACT [CAP 109]

1 Section 3

Repeal the section, substitute

“3 Responsibility allowance and constituency allowance

(1) A Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to:

- (a) an annual responsibility allowance in accordance with the Grades set out in the table below:

Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
1	2	3
VT5,324,100	VT5,650,500	VT5,989,600

; and

- (b) a constituency allowance of up to and not more than VT3,000,000 per annum.
- (2) Subject to the availability of funds from the Government, the Parliamentary Committee on Privilege, Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Rights is to determine when the Grades set out in the table in paragraph (a) are to be paid and determine the rate of the constituency allowance.
- (3) The constituency allowance is to be excluded from any calculation relating to the payment of:
- (a) contributions to the Vanuatu National Provident Fund; and
- (b) gratuity.”

2 Subsections 4(2) and (3)

Repeal the subsections, substitute

- “(2) A Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, the Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to a sitting allowance at the rate of VT7,500 for each day that Parliament or any of its Committee meets.
- (3) A sitting allowance must not be paid to a Member of Parliament unless such Member actually attends the sitting of Parliament or the sitting of any of its Committee.”

3 After section 4

Insert

“4A Touring Allowance

A Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is entitled to the relevant touring allowance as set out in the table below:

CONSTITUENCY	ANNUAL MAXIMUM ALLOWANCE
ZONE A	
Malekula, Pentecost, Santo and Tanna	1,605,000
ZONE B	
Ambae, Ambrym, Efate, Epi and Port Vila	1,500,000
ZONE C	
Banks, Luganville, Maewo and Southern Outer Islands	1,400,000
ZONE D	
Malo/Aore, Tongoa and Torres	1,300,000
ZONE E	
Paama and Shepherds	1,200,000

4B Accommodation entitlement

- (1) A Member of Parliament (other than the Speaker, Prime Minister, any Ministers and the Leader of Opposition) is entitled to a reasonably affordable rented apartment for the duration of a session of Parliament.

- (2) In the event that the entitlement under subsection (1) is not available, the Member of Parliament is to be paid VT7,500 per day to meet his or her accommodation for the duration of a session of Parliament.

4C Ceasing of take home pay entitlements

- (1) A Member of Parliament (including the Speaker, Prime Minister and Ministers) is not entitled to any form of take home pay entitlements as from the date on which this Act commences.

- (2) For the purposes of this section:

take home pay entitlements includes all of the following allowances:

- (a) child, family, spouse allowances; and
- (b) cost of living allowance; and
- (c) entertainment allowance; and
- (d) fuel allowance; and
- (e) housing allowances; and
- (f) telephone allowance.”