REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

CONSOLIDATION OF THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF THE LAWS OF VANUATU ACT [CAP 295]

Approval of the English Text of the Citizenship Consolidation Edition 2025 Order No. 70 of 2025

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 9(1) of the Consolidation of the French and English Texts of the Laws of Vanuatu Act [CAP 295], I, the Honourable JOB SAM ANDY, Minister of Youth, Justice and Community Services, make the following Order:

1 Approval of the English Text of the Citizenship Consolidation Edition 2025

The English Text of the Citizenship Consolidation Edition 2025 is approved.

2 Appointed day

The appointed day for the coming into operation of the Citizenship Consolidation Edition 2025 is the day on which this Order is made.

3 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 25th **day of** April**, 2025.**

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU Ministry of Justice & Community Service MINISTER Ministère de la Justice et services du Communauté RÉPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

Honourable JOB SAM ANDY
Minister of Youth, Justice and Community Services

Commencement: 30 July 1980

CHAPTER 112

CITIZENSHIP

JR 16 of 1980
Act 16 of 1983
Act 8 of 1987
Act 39 of 2013
Act 18 of 2014
Act 40 of 2014
Act 8 of 2016
Act 20 of 2016
Act 8 of 2018
Act 34 of 2018
Act 1 of 2021
Act 1 of 2023
Act 10 of 2023
Act 2 of 2024

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CITIZENSHIP

To provide for citizenship by naturalization, renunciation of citizenship, and the establishment of a Citizenship Commission.

PART 1 – PRELIMINARY

1. Interpretation

(1) In this Act unless the context otherwise requires –

"applicant" means an applicant for citizenship under this Act;

"Commission" means the Citizenship Commission established by section 2;

"child" means a natural or lawfully adopted child of an applicant or of the spouse who has not attained 18 years;

"citizen" means a citizen of Vanuatu;

"citizenship" means the citizenship of Vanuatu;

"Constitution" means the Constitution of Vanuatu;

"dual citizenship" means a person with the status as a citizen of two countries;

"oath of allegiance" means the oath of allegiance or solemn affirmation prescribed in Schedule 1;

"spouse" means the lawful spouse of an applicant;

"Vanuatu" means the Republic of Vanuatu;

(2) For the purpose of this Act –

(a) a person is of age if he has attained the age of 18 years; and

(b) a person is not of full capacity if he is a mentally disordered or defective person, so found and not discharged as sane, under the provisions of any Act relating to mental treatment.

PART 2 – CITIZENSHIP COMMISSION

2. Establishment of Citizenship Commission

There is hereby established a commission to be known as the Citizenship Commission.

3. Membership of the Commission

(1) The Commission consists of the following members who are to be nominated by the Prime Minister and appointed by the President:

(a) 2 members representing the Prime Minister; and

(b) 1 member representing the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs; and

(c) 1 member representing the National Council of Women; and

(d) 1 member representing the Vanuatu Christian Council.

(1A) The President after consultation with the Prime Minister is to appoint a Chairperson of the Commission from amongst the members.

(2) Subject to subsection (1) members of the Commission shall hold office for a period of 5 years and shall be eligible for reappointment.

(3) A person is eligible to be appointed as a member of the Commission if he or she:

(a) is a citizen of Vanuatu and does not hold dual citizenship; and

(b) has no previous criminal record; and

(c) is of good standing in the community.

(4) the Prime Minster may prescribe other criteria for appointment as a member of the Commission.

(5) Despite paragraph 3(3)(a), an indigenous or naturalised citizen who holds dual citizenship may be appointed as a member of the Commission.

4. Resignation and removal of members of the Commission

(1) A member of the Commission may resign his office by notice in writing signed by him and delivered to the President.

(2) The President may remove a member of the Commission with effect from a date notified by him in the Vanuatu Gazette.

5. Functions and powers of the Commission

(1) The Commission shall carry out such functions as are provided for it in this or any other Act.

(2) The Commission shall have such powers as are conferred on it specifically or by necessary implication by this or any other Act and shall generally in addition have such powers as shall enable it to exercise any of its functions.

(3) Without limiting the generality of subsection (2), the Commission has the following powers:

(a) to consider and approve applications for citizenship; and

(b) to revoke a citizenship that has been granted if:

(i) the citizenship was granted in a fraudulent manner; or

(ii) the citizenship was granted contrary to the provisions of this Act or the Constitution; or

(iii) the person after being granted citizenship is not complying with the restrictions provided in this Act.

6. Ministerial directions and requests

(1) The Prime Minister may give directions to the Commission of a general nature concerning the exercise of its functions or powers and the Commission shall comply with such directions.

(2) The Prime Minister may in writing require the Commission to advise him on any matter relating to citizenship and the Commission shall comply with such requirement.

7. Meetings and procedure

(1) The Commission may convene not more than 12 ordinary meetings and 12 extraordinary meetings in a year.

(2) The quorum for meetings shall be the chairman and half the other members of the Commission.

(3) If the chairman for good cause cannot attend a meeting the Prime Minister shall appoint a member to act as chairman for that meeting.

(4) The Commission shall decide matters before it by a simple majority of the members present and voting. In cases of equality of voting the chairman shall have a casting vote.

(5) Subject to such rules as the Prime Minister may make by Order the Commission may determine its own procedure with regard to the convening and conduct of meetings to ensure that the processing of applications are carried out in an effective and efficient manner.

8. Allowances

Members of the Commission who are not public officers shall be paid such allowances and expenses as the Prime Minister may determine after consultation with the Minister responsible for finance.

PART 2A – SECRETARY GENERAL, OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

8A. Appointment of Secretary General and other staff

The Secretary General and other staff of the Citizenship Office are to be appointed by the Public Service Commission.

8B. Functions of the Secretary General

The Secretary General has the following functions:

(a) to act as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission; and

(b) to advise the Commission on matters related to the exercise of the functions of the Commission; and

(c) to notify members of the Commission of meetings; and

(d) to ensure meetings are organised within the annual budget ceiling of the Commission; and

(e) to take minutes of all meetings of the Commission; and

(f) to issue letters of certification of citizenship; and

(fa) to inform the applicant on the decision of the Commission regarding the person's application for citizenship; and

(g) to liaise with foreign embassies and foreign governments on matters of citizenship; and

(h) such other functions as may be conferred on it by this Act or any other Act.

8BA. Failure to take and subscribe to an oath of allegiance or make solemn affirmation under Schedule 1

(1) A person who has had his or her application approved by the Commission must pay the citizenship fee and take and subscribe to an oath of allegiance or make a solemn affirmation under Schedule 1 within 3 months of being informed by the Secretary General of the approval of his or her application.

(2) If the person fails to comply with subsection (1), the approval by the Commission of his or her application for citizenship expires.

(3) Despite subsection (1), a person may with reasonable excuse, in writing request the Secretary General for a further period of 2 months prior to the expiry of the period referred to in subsection (1).

(4) If upon the expiry of the period referred to in subsection (3), the person has failed to comply with subsection (1), the approval by the Commission of his or her application for citizenship expires.

(5) To avoid doubt, the person must submit a new application to the Commission if he or she intends to apply again for citizenship.

8BB. Internal Screening Committee

(1) The Prime Minister is to appoint an Internal Screening Committee for the purpose of screening applications made in accordance with Part 3, before the applications are by the Commission.

(2) The Committee consists of the following persons:

(a) the Secretary General as the Chairperson; and

(b) the Compliance Officer of the Citizenship office; and

(c) the Director of Immigration Services; and

(d) the Principal Passport Officer; and

(e) 1 legal officer from the Office of the Attorney General nominated by the Attorney General; and

(f) a Police Officer nominated by the Commissioner of Police.

(3) The quorum of a meeting of the Committee is 3 members present at that meeting.

(4) The Committee is to meet 3 days before the meeting of the Commission to consider the applications.

8C. Screening process for citizenship applications

(1) Once an application for citizenship is made to the Commission under Part 3A, the Secretary General must refer the application to the following institutions for screening and due diligence checks to be undertaken before the application is considered by the Commission:

(a) the Vanuatu Police Force; and

(b) the Financial Intelligence Unit; and

(c) the Vanuatu Immigration Services.

(2) The head of the Institutions set out under subsection (1), must ensure that proper and accurate screening and due diligence checks are undertaken on each citizenship application.

(3) Once the process under subsection (1) has been undertaken, the head of the Institution must ensure that the application and a report on the screening and due diligence check for each application, is sent back to the Secretary General for the Commission's consideration.

(4) If the due diligence checks done by the Vanuatu Police Force confirms in a written report that the name of an applicant is listed on the Interpol database, the Secretary General must inform the Commission of this report and set aside the person's application from any further due diligence checks by the other two Institutions referred to under subsection (1).

(5) The Secretary General must as soon as possible, inform the relevant designated citizenship agent in writing of the police report under subsection (4).

(6) An Institution referred to under subsection (1) must not take more than 14 days from receipt of an application, to screen and carry out due diligence checks on the application.

(7) Despite subsection (6), an Institution may take more than 14 days but not later than 30 days to screen and carry out due diligence checks on an application if the Institution requires more time to do so to ensure the due diligence checks are properly and accurately carried out.

(8) The Commission must not consider any application that has not complied with the requirements of this section.

PART 3 – CITIZENSHIP BY ADOPTION AND NATURALIZATION

9. Application

This part applies only to a person who is not, or who is no longer, eligible to become a citizen by virtue of article 10 of the Constitution.

10. Application for citizenship by a non citizen married to a citizen of Vanuatu

(1) A non citizen who is married to a citizen of Vanuatu may apply in the prescribed manner for citizenship if he or she has lived with his or her spouse in Vanuatu for a period of not less than 2 years.

(2) The applicant must sit and pass a Citizenship test in Bislama.

11. Adopted children

A child adopted under the provisions of any Act relating to the adoption of children after the commencement of this Act and who is not a citizen on the day of adoption becomes a citizen on that day if the adopter or, in the case of a joint adoption either of the adopters, is a citizen on that day.

12. Application for, and granting of, citizenship by naturalization

(1) A person of age and full capacity may apply in the prescribed manner to the Commission to be naturalized as a citizen.

(1A) The following persons are prohibited from lodging any application with the Commission:

(a) a person whose citizenship has been revoked by the Commission; and

(b) a person whom the Commission has filed an official complaint against with the police, for investigation and prosecution.

(1B) A person referred to under paragraph (1A)(b), may lodge an application with the Commission if:

(a) the Public Prosecutor has determined that there is no sufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution; or

(b) the person was not found guilty by the Court for the relevant criminal offence or the investigations have ceased.

(2) Where on an application made pursuant to subsection (1) and as a result of such inquiries as the Commission may cause to be made, the Commission is satisfied that the person making the application –

(a) has been ordinarily and legally residing in Vanuatu for a continuous period of 10 years in compliance with the requirements of the Immigration Act No. 17 of 2010;

(aa) is not in default of payment of any charges or fees due to the Government;

(b) intends to continue to reside in Vanuatu;

(c) is of good character;

(d) unless prevented by physical or mental disability, is able to speak and understand sufficiently for normal conversational purposes, Bislama, English, French or a vernacular of Vanuatu;

(e) has a respect for the culture and the ways of life of Vanuatu;

(f) is not or is unlikely to become a charge on public funds;

(g) has a reasonable knowledge and understanding of the rights, privileges, responsibilities and duties of citizens;

(h) has renounced or agreed to renounce any citizenship which he may possess; and

(i) has taken and subscribed to an oath of allegiance or made a solemn affirmation in the form set out in Schedule 1; and

(j) has sat and passed a Citizenship test in Bislama;

(k) has not been involved in the financing of a terrorist act;

(l) has not been involved in the funding of political instability in Vanuatu;

(m) has not been removed from Vanuatu under section 53A of the Immigration Act No. 17 of 2010;

(n) has not been convicted of any offence carrying a maximum penalty of imprisonment for 12 months or more in Vanuatu or in another jurisdiction,

the Commission may grant the application, but otherwise shall refuse it.

(2A) Despite paragraph (2)(h) and subject to Article 13 of the Constitution, an applicant may choose to have dual citizenship.

(3) Subject to subsection (4) if a person requests when applying for citizenship that –

(a) the person spouse; or

(b) any child of the person named in the application,

becomes a citizen by naturalization, any such person named in the request shall become a citizen when the applicant becomes a citizen by naturalization.

(3A) A person may make an application for citizenship for any of his or her child that has not been named in his or her application for citizenship.

(3B) The person must pay the prescribed application and citizenship fee.

(4) A spouse shall not become a citizen in accordance with subsection (3) unless the application includes a statement by the spouse that he or she wishes to become a citizen.

(5) When an application made pursuant to subsection (1) is granted the Commission shall register the applicant as a citizen, issue a certificate of naturalization in the form in Schedule 2 to the applicant and to any person who also becomes a citizen pursuant to subsection (3).

(6) A person to whom a certificate of naturalization is issued becomes naturalized as a citizen on the date stated in the certificate.

(7) For the purposes of this section, the date of an application is the date on which it is lodged with the Commission.

(8) For the purpose of determining the period of residing in Vanuatu under paragraph (2)(a), the Commission must disregard any period during which the applicant has been in custody awaiting deportation or removal from Vanuatu.

(9) For the purposes of subsection (2)(i) an oath of allegiance may be administered by, and a solemn affirmation may be made before –

(a) any person authorised to administer oaths under the law; or

(b) a secretary of a Local Government Council; or

(c) a District Commissioner.

12A. Issuing of citizenship certificate

A citizenship certificate must:

(a) be signed by the Chairperson and a member of the Commission in the presence of the Secretary General; or

(b) be signed by the Prime Minister and a member of the Commission in the presence of the Secretary General if there is a vacancy in the office of the Chairperson.

13. Retention by Commission of citizenship certificate

The Commission may retain a certificate issued in accordance with section 12(5) until it is satisfied that the person named therein has renounced any other citizenship or nationality he may have at the time of issue of the certificate.

PART 3A – DUAL CITIZENSHIP

13A. Application of Part 3A

This Part applies to a person who intends to apply for Vanuatu citizenship and hold dual citizenship as recognised by subarticle 13(1) of the Constitution.

13B. Application for citizenship

(1) A person of age and full capacity may apply to the Commission in the prescribed form for citizenship.

(1A) A person must not apply for citizenship under this Part if that person is a resident or citizen of a country that has been listed by the Commission as a restricted country or listed under the United Nations sanctioned country, for reasons related to Vanuatu's national security.

(1B) Despite subsection (1A), the Commission may accept applications from applicants from any restricted country or United Nations sanctioned country if the applicant shows that he or she:

(a) has not resided in the restricted country or United Nations sanctioned country for the last 5 years; and

(b) provides evidence of permanent residency abroad.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), in addition to any other classes of persons eligible to apply for citizenship under this Act, the following persons may apply for and be granted citizenship:

(a) an investor under the Capital Investment Immigration Plan who complies with the requirements set out under section 13C; and

(b) an investor under the Contribution Program who complies with the requirements as set out under section 13CB; and

(c) an investor under the Development Support Program who complies with the requirements set out under section 13E; and

(d) an investor under the Real Estate Option Program who complies with the requirements set out under section 13F.

(3) Where on an application made pursuant to subsection (1) and as a result of such inquiries as the Commission may cause to be made and the screening and due diligence checks carried out under section 8C, the Commission is satisfied that the person making the application:

(a) has a respect for the culture and the ways of life of Vanuatu;

(b) is of good character;

(c) unless prevented by physical or mental disability, is able to speak and understand sufficiently for normal conversational purposes, Bislama, English, French or a vernacular of Vanuatu;

(d) has a reasonable knowledge and understanding of the rights, privileges, responsibilities and duties of citizens;

(e) has taken and subscribed to an oath of allegiance or made a solemn affirmation in the form set out in Schedule 1,

the Commission may grant the application, but otherwise shall refuse it.

(3A) The Commission must refuse the application of a person who is listed on the Interpol database.

(4) Paragraph (3)(c) does not apply to an applicant referred to under sections 13C and 13D and (2A).

(5) Subject to subsection (6) if a person requests when applying for citizenship that:

(a) his or her spouse; or

(aa) any of his or her resident dependant; or

(b) any child of that person named in the application,

becomes a citizen under this Part, any such person named in the request becomes a citizen when the applicant becomes a citizen under this Part.

(5A) A person may make an application for citizenship for any of his or her child that has not been named in his or her application for citizenship.

(5B) The person must pay the prescribed application and citizenship fee.

(6) A spouse of a person under subsection (5) must not become a citizen in accordance with subsection (5) unless the application includes a statement by him or her that he or she wishes to become a citizen.

(7) When an application made pursuant to subsection (1) is granted the Commission is to register the applicant as a citizen, issue a certificate of citizenship to the applicant and to any person who also becomes a citizen pursuant to subsection (5).

(8) A person to whom a certificate of citizenship is issued becomes a citizen on the date stated in the certificate.

(9) For the purposes of this section, the date of an application is the date on which it is lodged with the Commission.

(10) For the purposes of this section and sections 13C and 13D:

"children" is taken to have the same meaning as "child" under subsection 1(1);

"resident dependant" includes the following:

(a) a natural or adopted son or daughter of an applicant or his or her spouse who is or between the age of 18 to 25 years and is:

(i) residing with or dependent upon the applicant or his or her spouse; and

(ii) attending full time education; or

(b) the lawful mother or father of the applicant or his or her spouse who is:

(i) residing with and is dependent upon the applicant or his or her spouse; and

(ii) over the age of 50 years.

13C. Application for citizenship by an investor under the Capital Investment Immigration Plan

(1) The Prime Minister is to prescribe by Regulation, the requirements for an application for citizenship by an investor under the Capital Investment Immigration Plan.

(2) The prescribed fees payable by an applicant under the Capital Investment Immigration Plan covers the applicant, his or her spouse and 2 children.

(3) The Prime Minister may prescribe additional fees for any other child or resident dependant of the applicant.

(4) The Commission is to approve and grant a citizenship within 3 months of receiving an application under this section.

13D. Application for citizenship by an investor under the Contribution Program

(1) The Prime Minister is to prescribe by Regulation the requirements for an application for citizenship by an investor under the Contribution Program.

(2) The prescribed fees payable by an applicant under the Contribution Program covers the applicant, his or her spouse and 2 children.

(3) The Prime Minister may prescribe additional fees for any other child or resident dependant of the applicant.

(4) The Commission must within 3 months of receiving an application under this section, make a decision on whether or not to approve and grant a citizenship.

13E. Application for citizenship by an investor under the Development Support Program

(1) The Prime Minister is to prescribe by Regulation, the requirements for an application for citizenship by an investor under the Development Support Program.

(2) The prescribed fees payable by an applicant under the Development Support Program covers the applicant, his or her spouse and 2 children.

(3) The Prime Minister may prescribe additional fees for any other child or resident dependant of the applicant.

(4) The Commission must within 3 months of receiving an application under this section, make a decision on whether or not to approve and grant a citizenship.

13F. Application for citizenship by an investor under the Real Estate Option Program

(1) The Prime Minister is to prescribe by Regulation, the requirements for an application for citizenship by an investor under the Real Estate Option Program.

(2) The prescribed fees payable by an applicant under the Real Estate Option Program covers the applicant, his or her spouse and 2 children.

(3) The Prime Minister may prescribe additional fees for any other child or resident dependant of the applicant.

(4) The Commission must within 3 months of receiving an application under this section, make a decision on whether or not to approve and grant a citizenship.

13G. Application for citizenship by an investor under the Capital Investment Budget Support

(1) The Prime Minister is to prescribe by Regulation, the requirements for an application for citizenship by an investor under the Capital Investment Budget Support.

(2) The prescribed fees payable by an applicant under the Capital Investment Budget Support covers the applicant, his or her spouse and 2 children.

(3) The Prime Minister may prescribe additional fees for any other child or resident dependant of the applicant.

(4) The Commission must within 3 months of receiving an application under this section, make a decision on whether or not to approve and grant a citizenship.

PART 4 – LOSS AND RENUNCIATION OF AND REGAINING OF CITIZENSHIP

14. Loss of citizenship

(1) In addition to the reasons set out in article 13 of the Constitution a citizen who is of age and of full capacity shall lose his citizenship if he –

(a) takes an oath or makes a declaration or affirmation of allegiance to another country or to the Sovereign or Head of State of another country;

(b) does, agrees to or adopts any act by which he becomes a national or citizen of another country;

(c) enters or serves in the armed forces of another country except with the express approval of the Prime Minister acting in accordance with the advice of the Council of Ministers; or

(d) except as permitted by any Act, votes in a national, provincial, state or local election, or accepts elective office, of another country.

(2) A person who is found by a court to have obtained citizenship by any false representation, fraud or concealment of a material fact on his part shall cease to be a citizen 30 days after such finding unless the Prime Minister being satisfied that the offence was of a minor nature and that the revealing of the true facts would not have affected the grant of naturalization or citizenship publishes a declaration confirming that person's citizenship in the Vanuatu Gazette within such 30 days.

(3) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any act done under compulsion of law of another country.

(4) Subsection (1) does not apply to a person who holds dual citizenship.

15. Loss of citizenship in other cases

A person who has acquired citizenship by naturalization shall lose that citizenship if he travels across a national boundary making use of a passport of any foreign state.

16. Deprivation of citizenship

The Prime Minister may deprive a citizen by naturalization of his citizenship by declaration in the Vanuatu Gazette within 15 days of that person being sentenced to a term of imprisonment of 10 years or more.

17. Renunciation of citizenship

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a citizen who is of age and full capacity may, in the prescribed manner renounce his citizenship.

(2) A person may not renounce his or her citizenship unless –

(a) he or she already holds some other nationality or citizenship; or

(b) the renunciation is for the purpose of his obtaining some other nationality or citizenship.

(3) During a time of war, citizenship may not be renounced without the prior consent of the Prime Minister.

18. Regaining of citizenship

(1) A person who has renounced or loses his or her Vanuatu citizenship may make an application in the prescribed manner to the Commission to regain his or her citizenship.

(2) The Commission is to consider the application and decide whether or not to grant the citizenship.

PART 5 – GENERAL

19. (*Repealed*)

20. Honorary citizenship

(1) The President may on the advice of the Prime Minister confer honorary citizenship on any person with such privileges or exemptions as may be prescribed.

(2) The categories of persons eligible to be conferred honorary citizenship are:

(a) a person who has contributed or who will contribute to the advancement and betterment of the development process in Vanuatu; and

(b) a person who has been appointed under the Foreign Service Act No. 19 of 2013 as a representative of the Government overseas.

(3) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2), the Commission must assess the person and advise the Prime Minister if he or she is eligible to be conferred honorary citizenship.

(4) In addition to subsection (3), the person:

(a) must not have any criminal record; and

(b) must be of high standing in his or her community, organization, society or country.

21. Registers

(1) The Commission shall cause to be kept and maintained a register or registers, in such form as the Prime Minister shall consider appropriate in which shall be recorded the particulars of all persons who –

(a) become citizens;

(b) regain citizenship;

(c) lose or renounce citizenship;

(d) have dual citizenship.

(2) (*Repealed*)

(3) The registers referred to in subsection (1) shall be open for inspection to the public in such manner and on the payment of such fees as may be prescribed.

(4) Extracts from the registers referred to in subsection (1) may be certified and issued to an applicant on payment of the prescribed fee.

(5) Extracts issued in accordance with subsection (4) shall be accepted by the courts as evidence of what is stated in them.

21A. Evaluation and Report

(1) For the better performance of the functions of the Commission, the Prime Minister may appoint a qualified person to evaluate the performance of the Commission.

(2) The terms and conditions of the appointment of a person under subsection (1) are to be determined by the Prime Minister.

22. Offence and penalty

(1) Any person who, for the purpose of being registered or obtaining the registration of any other person as a citizen under this Act, knowingly gives any false information to any person commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding VT 1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both.

(2) A person or another person who fraudulently facilitates the granting of citizenship contrary to the provisions of this Act or Constitution commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding VT1,000, 000 or imprisonment for a term of 5 years or both.

(3) An applicant who attempts to be granted citizenship by way of bribing the Chairperson or any member of the Commission or any staff of the Citizenship Office commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding VT 2,000,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or both.

(4) A person who obtains citizenship in a fraudulent manner or a manner which is not approved by the Commission commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding VT5,000,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years, or both.

22A. Penalty notices

(1) The Secretary General of the Commission may serve a penalty notice on a person if it appears to the officer that the person has committed an offence under this Act or the Regulations and the offence is one that is stated by the Regulations to be an offence to which this section applies.

(2) A penalty notice is a notice to the effect that, if the person served does not wish to have the matter determined by a court, the person may pay within a time and to a person specified in the notice, the amount of penalty stated in the penalty notice.

(3) A penalty notice may be served personally or by post.

(4) If the amount of penalty prescribed for the purposes of this section for an alleged offence is paid under this section, that person is not liable to any further proceedings for the alleged offence.

(5) Payment under this section is not to be regarded as an admission of liability for the purpose of, nor in any way affect or prejudice, any proceeding arising out of the same occurrence.

(6) The Regulations may:

(a) prescribe an offence for the purposes of this section by specifying the offence or by referring to the provision creating the offence; and

(b) prescribe the amount of penalty payable for the offence if dealt with under this section; and

(c) prescribe different amounts of penalties for different offences or classes of offences.

(7) The amount of a penalty prescribed under this section for an offence must not exceed the maximum amount of penalty prescribed in this Act.

(8) This section does not limit the operation of any other provision of, or made under, this or any other Act relating to proceedings that may be taken in respect of offences.

23. Regulations

The Prime Minister may by Order, not inconsistent with this Act, prescribe all matters that may be required to be prescribed by this Act or for the better carrying out or giving effect to its provisions.

24. Fees

Without derogating from the generality of section 23 the Prime Minister may by order prescribe fees to be charged in respect of forms and other matters required or necessary for the better carrying into effect the provisions of the Act.

SCHEDULE 1

(Section 12(2)(i))

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Citizenship Act, Cap. 112

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

I, ...
do this .....day of.....20 ..... swear that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the President and the Republic of Vanuatu, So help me God.

Signed .....

SOLEMN AFFIRMATION

I, ...
do this .....day of.....20 ..... solemnly affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the President and the Republic of Vanuatu.

Signed .....

SCHEDULE 2

(Section 12(5))

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Citizenship Act, Cap. 112

CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT ..... was on the ..... day of ..... 20..... granted Citizenship in accordance with the Constitution and section 12 of the Citizenship Act, Cap. 112.

.....
Chairman
Citizenship Commission

.....
Member
Citizenship Commission

Table of Amendments (since the Revised Edition 1988)

1(1)	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013, 8 of 2016*	*12(2)(k)–(n)*	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*
		12(2A)	*Inserted by Act 10 of 2023*
3(1)	*Substituted by Acts 39 of 2013, 1 of 2023*	*12(3)*	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013*
		12(3A), (3B)	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*
3(2)	*Amended by Act 10 of 2023*	*12(4)*	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013*
3(3)	*Substituted by Act 39 of 2013*	*12(8)*	*Substituted by Act 8 of 2016*
5(3)	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*	*12A*	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*
7(1)	*Substituted by Act 39 of 2013*	*Part 3A*	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*
7(1)	*Amended by Act 40 of 2014, 8 of 2016*	*13A*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
		13B(1)	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
7(5)	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*	*13B(1A), (1B)*	*Inserted by Act 1 of 2023*
Part 2A	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*	*13B(2)*	*Substituted by Act 40 of 2014*
8B(fa)	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*	*13B(2)*	*Substituted by Act 8 of 2016*
8BA	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*	*13B(2)(c)*	*Inserted by Act 34 of 2018*
8BB	*Inserted by Act 10 of 2023*	*13B(2)(d)*	*Inserted by Act 1 of 2021*
8C	*Substituted by Act 1 of 2023*	*13B(2A)*	*Inserted by Act 18 of 2014*
8C(2)(f)	*Inserted by Act 8 of 2018*	*13B(2A)*	*Repealed by Act 40 of 2014*
10	*Substituted by Act 39 of 2013*	*13B(3)*	*Amended by Act 1 of 2023*
11	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*	*13B(3A)*	*Inserted by Act 1 of 2023*
12(1)	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*	*13B(4)*	*Amended by Act 18 of 2014*
12(1A)	*Inserted by Act 8 of 2016*	*13B(4)*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
12(2)(a)	*Substituted by Act 8 of 2016*	*13B(5)*	*Amended by Act 40 of 2014*
12(2)(i)	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013*	*13B(5)(a)*	*Amended by Act 40 of 2014*
12(2)(j)	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*	*13B(5)(aa)*	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*
12(2)(j)	*Amended by Act 40 of 2014*	*13B(5)(aa)*	*Substituted by Act 20 of 2016*

13B(5A), (5B)	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*	*19*	*Repealed by Act 39 of 2013*
13B(6)	*Amended by Act 18 of 2014*	*20*	*Substituted by Act 39 of 2013*
13B(7)	*Amended by Act 18 of 2014*	*20(1)*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
13B(10)	*Inserted by Act 20 of 2016*	*20(2), (3)*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
13C	*Substituted by Act 40 of 2014*	*20(2)(a)*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
13C, 13D	*Substituted by Act 8 of 2016*	*20(3)*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
13C(5)	*Repealed by Act 20 of 2016*	*20(4)(b)*	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*
13CA	*Inserted by Act 18 of 2014*	*21(1)(c)*	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013*
13CA	*Repealed by Act 40 of 2014*	*21(1)(d)*	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*
13C-13F	*Amended by Act 1 of 2023*	*21(2)*	*Repealed by Act 40 of 2014*
13E	*Inserted by Act 34 of 2018*	*21A*	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*
13F	*Inserted by Act 1 of 2021*	*22(1)*	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013*
13G	*Inserted by Act 1 of 2023*	*22(2)*	*Substituted by Act 39 of 2013*
13G	*Amended by Act 2 of 2024*	*22(2)*	*Amended by Acts 40 of 2014, 8 of 2016*
14(2)	*Amended by Act 39 of 2013*		
14(4)	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*	*22(3)*	*Inserted by Act 39 of 2013*
17(2)	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*	*22(4)*	*Inserted by Act 40 of 2014*
17(2)(a)	*Amended by Act 8 of 2016*	*22A*	*Inserted by Act 8 of 2016*
18	*Substituted by Act 39 of 2013*		