

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE

(AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2021

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Representation of the People Act [CAP 146].

Since Vanuatu gained its independence in 1980 and adopted a Westminster parliamentary system, Vanuatu has gone through a series of elections which were considered credible despite some challenges. Given those challenges, the current Government considers that it is time to strengthen the electoral system and address those challenges towards a more efficient and effective electoral system.

The Government has identified the need to address the issues of registration of voters around electoral boundaries within Vanuatu and the conduct of elections during an election period.

This Bill will strengthen the identification, verification and validation of voter during elections and to improve and strengthen electoral voter registration activities.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs



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BILL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2021

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2021

An Act to amend the Representation of the People Act [CAP 146].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Representation of the People Act [CAP 146] 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 REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT [CAP 146]

1 Paragraph 9(4)(b)

After “card”, insert “or a copy of the national ID card”

2 Subsection 20(2)

Delete “Subject to subsection (2A), having”, substitute “Having”

3 Subsection 20(2A)

Repeal the subsection.

4 Paragraph 69(1)(c)

Delete “thumbnail”, substitute “thumb, including the nail,”

5 Schedule 5 - Subrule 3(2)

Delete “a letter of authority and an identification badge or national ID card”,
substitute “an observer badge”

6 Schedule 5 - Subrule 8(2)

Delete “shall wear an identification badge or carry an national ID card”, substitute
“must carry and wear his or her observer badge”

7 Schedule 5 - paragraph 11(a)

Repeal the paragraph, substitute

“(a) ensure that a mark is placed on the thumb including the nail of the voter
which must be permanent throughout the period of the poll;”

8 Schedule 5 - Paragraph 11(d)

After “the” (first occurring), insert “national ID card or the electoral”