

**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**  
**BILL FOR THE**  
**CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT)**  
**ACT NO.      OF 2025**

**Explanatory Note**

This Bill amends the Citizenship Act [CAP 112] (“the Act”).

Currently the Act is silent on some of the issues that are affecting the Citizenship by Investment Programs (“the Programs”) and the current operations of these Programs.

The amendments to the Act are essential to address issues that are affecting the integrity of the Programs and Vanuatu as a whole and at the same time ensure that we meet the international demands and requirements.

This Bill provides for the following:

- the independency and impartiality of the Citizenship Commission (“the Commission”) in performing its functions and exercising its powers under the Act, however, the Commission must comply with the general policy directions of the Government; address issues that are affecting the Programs in relation to the due diligence checks and compliances measures of the persons applying the under the Programs;
- the monitoring and regulating of Designated Agents for more robust and clear criteria’s that will enhance proper monitoring and performance of the Designated Agents;
- the process of setting aside an application when the Financial Intelligence Unit provides in its written report of adverse information or the Department of Immigration providing in its written report that an applicant classified as a Red Alert or Wanted Person by the Interpol.

**Prime Minister**



**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

**BILL FOR THE  
CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT)  
ACT NO. OF 2025**

**Arrangement of Sections**

|          |                          |          |
|----------|--------------------------|----------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Amendment .....</b>   | <b>2</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Commencement.....</b> | <b>2</b> |

# REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

## **BILL FOR THE CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2025**

An Act to amend the Citizenship Act [CAP 112].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

### **1 Amendment**

The Citizenship Act [CAP 112] 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 CITIZENSHIP ACT [CAP 112]

#### **1 Section 6**

Repeal the section, substitute

#### **“6 Independence and impartiality of the Commission**

- (1) In performing its functions and exercising its powers under this Act or any other Act, the Commission must act independently and impartially, and in accordance with this Act or any other Act.
- (2) The Commission is not subject to the direction or control of any other person in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers.
- (3) Despite subsection (2), the Commission must comply with the general policy directions of the Government.”

#### **2 Subsection 8BB(1)**

After “Part 3”, insert “and Part 3A”

#### **3 After paragraph 8BB(2)(e)**

Insert

- “(ea) an officer from the Financial Intelligence Unit nominated by the Attorney General; and”

#### **4 Paragraph 8BB(2)(f)**

Delete “.”, and substitute “; and

- (g) an officer of the National Bank of Vanuatu nominated by the Chief Executive Officer.”

#### **5 Subsections 8C(4) and (5)**

Repeal the subsections, substitute

- “(4) If the due diligence checks conducted by:

- (a) the Vanuatu Police Force confirms in a written report that the name of an applicant is listed on the Interpol database; or
- (b) the Financial Intelligence Unit confirms in a written report that the applicant has adverse information; or
- (c) the Department of Immigration confirms in a written report that there is a Red Alert on the applicant and is that the application a wanted person,

the Secretary General must inform the Commission of the report and the Commission must set aside the person's application.

- (5) The Secretary General must as soon as possible, inform the relevant Designated Agent in writing of the setting aside of the application and reason for setting aside the application.

- (5A) A person whose application was set aside may reapply if he or she is cleared under paragraph (4)(a), (b) or (c)."

## **6 After section 13G**

Insert

### **"13H Application for Designated Agents**

- (1) This section applies to a person who applies to become a Designate Agent under sections 13C, 13D, 13E, 13F and 13G.
- (2) A company who intends to become a Designated Agent must apply to the Commission.
- (3) An application must:
  - (a) be in the prescribed form; and
  - (b) be accompanied by the prescribed application fee.
- (4) The Commission, in considering an application, must be satisfied that the applicant meets the following criteria:

SCHEDULE  
AMENDMENTS OF CITIZENSHIP ACT [CAP 112]

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- (a) the business is registered with the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission; and
- (b) the applicant has an original business licence certificate to operate as a Designated Agent; and
- (c) for the purpose of offshore companies - is registered with the Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Agency.”