

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2025

Explanatory Note

The Political Party Registration Act No. 15 of 2023 (“the Act”) requires specific amendments to support the regulation of political party registration and management. The proposed amendments to the Act will provide more clarity in the legislation and assist the Political Party Registrar and the Screening Committee in undertaking their duties and responsibilities more effectively.

This Bill amends the Political Party Registration Act No 15 of 2023 by:

1. defining the responsibilities of the Principal Electoral Officer as the Chairperson of the Screening Committee, and further provides the quorum and voting requirements for committee meetings; and
2. establishing clear boundaries in which Custom Movements can contest elections based on the cultural origins they represent by amending subsection 7(3) to replace “Island” with “constituency”; and
3. amending the de-registration process for political parties in subsection 13(3) so that the requirement of second notice does not apply to political party which is to be deregistered based failing to meet the minimum threshold for voter support at a previous election.

Minister of Internal Affairs



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

**BILL FOR THE
POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION
(AMENDMENT)
ACT NO. OF 2025**

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BILL FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2025

An Act to amend the Political Parties Registration Act No. 15 of 2023.

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Political Parties Registration Act No. 15 of 2023 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 THE POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION ACT NO. 15 OF 2023

1 Subsection 7(3)

Delete “island”, substitute “constituency”

2 Paragraph 8A(2)(a)

After “Officer”, insert “, who is the Chairperson”

3 Subsection 8A(3)

Repeal the subsection, substitute

- “(3) The Principal Electoral Officer is to preside at all meetings of the Screening Committee.
- (4) At the meeting of the Screening Committee, a quorum consists of 2 members of the Screening Committee, of whom one must be the Principal Electoral Officer.
- (5) The decisions of the Screening Committee are to be made by a simple majority vote of the members present and voting.
- (6) If there is a tie vote at a meeting of the Screening Committee, the Principal Electoral Officer has a casting vote.
- (7) The Screening Committee may determine and regulate its own procedures.”

4 Paragraph 12(1)(e)

Delete “Order”, substitute “Regulation”

5 After subsection 13(3)

Insert

- “(3A) Subsection (3) does not apply to a political party which is being deregistered for the purposes of paragraph 12(1)(e).”