Commencement: 24 April 2019

CITIZENSHIP (DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM) REGULATION

Order 33 of 2019
Order 39 of 2020
Order 124 of 2021
Order 125 of 2021
Order 41 of 2024

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1. Definitions

"Act" means the Citizenship Act [CAP 112];

"applicant" means an applicant for citizenship under the Development Support Program;

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

"children" is taken to have the same meaning as child;

"Commission" means the Citizenship Commission established under Part 2 of the Citizenship Act [CAP 112];

"DSP" means the Development Support Program established under section 13E of the Citizenship Act [CAP 112];

"FIU" means the Financial Intelligence Unit established under section 4 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014;

"Office" means the Citizenship Office;

"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.

"VERP" means the Vanuatu Economic Rehabilitation Program.

2. Establishment of the Development Support Program

For the purpose of section 13E of the Act, the Development Support Program is established.

3. Designated Agents for the Development Support Program

(1) The Commission is to designate agents to promote and market the DSP worldwide.

(2) The Commission must not designate an agent who is not a citizen of Vanuatu.

(3) A designated agent must have his or her main registered office in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

(4) A person who has obtained citizenship under the VERP or the DSP is not eligible to be designated by the Commission as an agent for the DSP.

3A. Quota per annum

A designated agent is to achieve a minimum of 6 investors per annum.

4. Selling prices

The following selling prices apply in marketing the DSP worldwide:

(a) for a single person –the selling price must not be less than:

  (i) USD130,000; or

  (ii) AUD181,000; or

  (iii) NZD197,000; or

  (iv) JPY14,990,000;

(b) for a married couple –the selling price must not be less than:

(i) USD150,000; or

(ii) AUD209,000; or

(iii) NZD228,000; or

(iv) JPY17,300,000;

(c) for a married couple and a child under 18 years of age –the selling price must not be less than:

(i) USD165,000; or

(ii) AUD230,000; or

(iii) NZD250,000; or

(iv) JPY19,025,000;

(d) for a married couple and 2 children under 18 years of age –the selling price must not be less than:

(i) USD180,000; or

(ii) AUD251,000; or

(iii) NZD273,000; or

(iv) JPY20,755,000.

5. Revocation of designation

The Commission may revoke the designation of an agent if that agent fails to comply with the requirement set out under clause 4.

6. Procedures for applications for citizenship under the Development Support Program

(1) The Office must, upon receiving an application under the DSP Program, ensure the screening process under section 8C of the Act is carried out for each application.

(2) The prescribed fees are to be paid in the following manner:

(a) an applicant must pay 25% of the prescribed fee due under his or her application before the Commission considers his or her application;

(b) an applicant must pay 75% of the prescribed fee due under his or her application before the Commission issues the certificate of citizenship to him or her.

(3) An applicant may pay 100 percent of the prescribed fee due under his or her application.

(4) To avoid doubt:

(a) payments set out under subclause 2 are deemed to have been made once the fees have been deposited into the DSP account with the:

(i) National Bank of Vanuatu; or

(ii) Bred Bank; or

(iii) Bank South Pacific (Vanuatu) Limited; or

(iv) ANZ Bank (Vanuatu) Limited; or

(v) Wanfuteng Bank; or

(vi) other commercial banks as may be approved by the Commission;

and satisfactory documentary proof of such payment being made has been received by the Commission; and

(b) if an application has been refused by the Commission, the 25% of the prescribed fee that has been paid under paragraph (2)(a) is not refundable to the applicant.

(5) The Commission must not consider the application of a person who has not paid the relevant prescribed fee as required by subclause 2.

(6) Subject to paragraph (2)(b), the Commission must issue a citizenship certificate to a person within 90 days after the application is approved.

(7) The Commission must not issue a citizenship certificate to a person who has not made the full payment of the prescribed amount in accordance with subclause 7(1).

(8) The Commission may accept applications from applicants from any restricted country if the applicant shows that he or she:

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

(b) provides evidence of permanent residency abroad.

(9) The Commission must not approve the application of a person who has had a criminal conviction.

(10) Once the process of due diligence checks have been completed, an applicant must ensure that he or she continues to use the services of the same agent unless that agent has not progressed the application within a reasonable period which must not exceed 6 months.

(11) The Office must notify an agent of the approval in principle of an application from that agent within 48 hours of the approval in principle being made by the Commission.

(12) An application may only be refused by the Commission if the application does not meet the requirements set out under the Act and this Regulation.

(13) For the purpose of this clause, “International specialist firm” means a globally reputable firm specialised in citizenship and visa due diligence checks.

7. Prescribed fees

(1) The following categories of fees payable to the designated Government account, are prescribed for persons applying for citizenship under the DSP:

(a) for a single person applying for citizenship:

(i) USD80,000; or

(ii) AUD111,000; or

(iii) NZD121,000; or

(iv) JPY9,224,000;

(b) for a married couple applying for citizenship:

(i) USD100,000; or

(ii) AUD139,000; or

(iii) NZD154,000; or

(iv) JPY11,534,000;

(c) for a married couple plus a child under 18 years of age:

(i) USD115,000; or

(ii) AUD160,000; or

(iii) NZD174,000; or

(iv) JPY13,264,000;

(d) for a married couple plus 2 children under 18 years of age:

(i) USD130,000; or

(ii) AUD181,000; or

(iii) NZD197,000; or

(iv) JPY14,994,000;

(e) for an additional child:

(i) USD10,000; or

(ii) AUD14,000; or

(iii) NZD16,000; or

(iv) JPY1,154,000;

(f) for any additional resident dependent:

(i) USD10,000; or

(ii) AUD14,000; or

(iii) NZD16,000; or

(iv) JPY1,154,000.

(2) A person applying for Citizenship under the DSP, must pay an application fee of VT5000 to the Commission for his or her application.

(3) A person who has been granted Citizenship under the DSP must pay a certificate fee of VT10,000 for each certificate that is granted under his or her application.

(4) Each applicant must pay a fee of:

(a) USD5,000; or

(b) AUD7,000; or

(c) NZD8,000; or

(d) JPY577,000;

for due diligence checks to be made on him or her and on persons under his or her application.

8. Prescribed fee applicable for spouse and child of citizens under the VERP and Honorary Citizenship DSP

(1) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under the VERP and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must pay an administration fee of:

(a) USD5,000; or

(b) AUD7,000; or

(c) NZD8,000; or

(d) JPY577,000;

To process the application.

(2) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under the Honorary Citizenship DSP before the fees have been reduced by Order No. 94 of 2018, and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must pay an administration fee of:

(a) USD5,000; or

(b) AUD7,000; or

(c) NZD8,000; or

(d) JPY577,000;

To process the application.

(3) For cases where a person has been granted citizenship under the Honorary Citizenship DSP after the fees have been reduced by Order No. 94 of 2018, and the person intends to put in an application for his or her spouse and a child or 2 children, the person must pay an administration fee of:

(a) USD5,000; or

(b) AUD7,000; or

(c) NZD8,000; or

(d) JPY577,000;

and the difference between the amount paid on the first application and the new fees prescribed under subclause 7(1).

(4) For any other dependants apart from the spouse and a child or 2 children referred to in subclauses (1) and (2) the applicant must pay the fees as stated in paragraph 7(1)(e) or (f).

(5) To avoid doubt, a child born after a person is granted citizenship under the Honorary Citizenship DSP or VERP is a citizen of Vanuatu. The Child is to pay a passport fee of VT10,000.

9. Delivery of original citizenship certificates

A designated agent or a person authorised by the designated agent, may deliver to the citizen abroad (if such situation is necessary) the citizenship certificate in accordance with prescribed guidelines for delivery of such document upon completion of the oath of allegiance procedure by the citizen.

Table of Amendments

3A	*Inserted by Orders 39 of 2020, 41 of 2024*	*6(13)*	*Inserted by Order 39 of 2020*
4(a) – (d)	*Amended by Order 125 of 2021*	*7(1)(a) - (f)*	*Amended by Order 125 of 2021*
6(1)	*Substituted by Order 41 of 2024*	*7(4)*	*Amended by Order 39 of 2020*
6(1)(a)	*Substituted by Order 39 of 2020*	*7(4)*	*Substituted by Order 125 of 2024*
6(1)(b)	*Amended by Order 39 of 2020*	*8(1) – (3)*	*Amended by Order 125 of 2024*
6(4)(a)	*Amended by Order 124 of 2021*		
6(10)	*Amended by Order 41 of 2024*		