

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2018

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Citizenship Act [CAP 112] to give effect to the Government's policy to create a new category of citizenship under the Citizenship Act, namely the Development Support Program (DSP).

The Government is currently operating the Development Support Program as a category for honorary citizenship under section 20 of the Citizenship Act. The DSP replaced the Vanuatu Economic Rehabilitation Program (VERP) which was a honorary citizenship program being developed to attract investors to contribute towards the rehabilitation of Vanuatu after being hit by Cyclone Pam in 2015.

The VERP ceased to operate since 2016.

The DSP program that is currently being operated as a honorary citizenship program, will cease to operate once the provisions in this Act commence.

All the designated agents, currently being appointed by the Citizenship Commission, for the DSP, will continue to be the designated agents for the purposes of the DSP being established under this Act. This would mean that the Contracts which were entered into between the Commission and each of the designated agent will be amended to cater for this new arrangement.

The Commission has appointed 38 designated agents who are currently marketing and promoting the DSP worldwide.

Prime Minister



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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 Paragraph 13B(2)(b)

Delete “.”, substitute “; and

- (c) an investor under the Development Support Program who complies with the requirements set out under section 13E.”

2 After section 13D

Insert

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

- (1) The 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 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.”