## REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

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#### NOTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

#### <u>ORDER</u>

## **CITIZENSHIP ACT [CAP 112]**

 INVESTMENT – GOVERNMENT BOND OPTION REGULATION ORDER NO. 44 OF 2023

#### **LIQUOR LICENSING ACT [CAP 52]**

 SCHEDULE 15 (AMENDMENT) ORDER NO. 45 OF 2023



## **CITIZENSHIP ACT [CAP 112]**

### Investment - Government Bond Option Regulation Order No. 44 of 2023

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 13G(1) of the Citizenship Act [CAP 112], I, the Honourable ALATOI ISHMAEL KALSAKAU MAA'U KORO TAMBE URE VIRA LAVISE VAHE, Prime Minister, make the following Regulation.

#### 1 Definition

In this Regulation unless the context otherwise requires:

**IGBO** means the Investment - Government Bond Option under section 13G of the Act:

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

children has the same meaning as child;

**Commission** means the Citizenship Commission established by section 2 of the Citizenship Act [CAP 112];

Office means the Office of the Citizenship Commission;

**Reserve Bank of Vanuatu** means the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu established under section 2 of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu Act [CAP 125];

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.

#### 2 Designated Master Agent of the Investment- Government Bond Option

The Commission is to, after consultation with the Prime Minister, designate 1 Master Agent to market and promote the IGBO worldwide.

#### 3 IGBO Prospectus

The prospectus of the IGBO is to be issued by the Minister of the Finance and Economic Management in accordance with the Public Finance and Economic Act No. 6 of 1998.

## 4 Procedures for applications for citizenship under the IGBO

- (1) Upon receiving an application for citizenship under the IGBO, the Master Agent is to provide the Secretary General with a nomination form from the investor which must include particulars of the investor and the investor's nomination of applicant(s) in the application. The application must be accompanied by a certified copy a valid passport, police or judicial clearance from his or her State of Origin.
- (2) The Secretary General must ensure that the provisions of section 8C under the Act is complied with in relation to due diligence checks and screening of each application.
- (3) The prescribed fee under clause 5 is to be paid in the following manner:
  - (a) an applicant must pay the prescribed fee under subclause 5(4), before the Commission considers his or her application; and
  - (b) an applicant must pay 100% of the funds referred to under sub clause 5(2) within 30 days after the Commission grants approval in principle of the application; and

- (c) an applicant must pay the prescribed fee under subclause 5(5) before the Commission can grant his or her citizenship certificate.
- (4) If an application has been refused by the Commission, the prescribed fees that have been paid under subclause 5(6) and paragraph 4(3)(a) are not refundable to the applicant.
- (5) The Commission must inform the applicant of its reasons for refusing an application. The applicant may appeal to the Minister against a decision of the Commission under this provision.
- (6) Subject to paragraph 4(3)(b), the Commission must issue a citizenship certificate to a person within 7 days after the application is approved.
- (7) The Commission may accept applications from applicants from any restricted country or United Nations sanctioned country if the applicant shows that he or she:
  - (a) has not resided in the restricted country or United Nations sanctioned country for the last 5 years; and
  - (b) provides evidence of permanent residency abroad.
- (8) The Commission must not approve the application of a person who has had a criminal conviction for an offence carrying imprisonment for 12 months or more.
- (9) The Secretary General must notify the Master Agent of the approval in principle of an application, within 48 hours of the approval in principle being made by the Commission.
- (10) 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.

#### 5 Prescribed fees

- (1) The Reserve Bank of Vanuatu is to issue 500 units of government bonds at zero interest rate from the date of issuing as follows:
  - (a) maturing in 24 months- AUD180,000; and
  - (b) maturing in 30 months- AUD170,000; and
  - (c) maturing in 36 months- AUD150,000.

- (2) Each successful subscription of 1 unit of government bond is entitled to allot a one-time quota of citizenship application under section 13G of the Act.
- Once an investor purchases a government bond, the Master Agent must pay the funds into a Vanuatu Government Australian Dollar designated account and upon clearance of the fund, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu is to issue a government bond certificate bearing the name of the investor. Such certificate must be issued within 7 days upon clearance of the fund and the Secretary General must provide the Master Agent with the certificate for delivery to the investor.
- (4) The Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management are responsible to determine the redemption procedures for when the groups of bonds mature.
- (5) A person applying for citizenship under the IGBO, must pay an application fee of VT5,000 to the Commission for his or her application.
- (6) A person who has been granted citizenship under the IGBO must pay the Commission a certificate fee of VT10,000 for each certificate that is granted under his or her application.
- (7) The fee of AUD7500 is payable by the Master Agent to the Government before any due diligence checks and screening can be carried out under subclause 4(2) on each application.
- (8) The Master Agent must pay the Commission the following prescribed fees:

(a) single application AUD20,000

(b) couple application AUD30,000

(c) couple and one child application AUD45,000

(d) family (couple and 2 children) application AUD60,000

(e) every additional child or resident dependent AUD 7,500

(9) The Master Agent must pay the Government a bond transfer fee of AUD1500 as and when a transfer occurs.

- (10) Due diligence checks and screenings under subclause 4(2) must be undertaken on any beneficiary of a transfer before that transfer can occur under subclause (9).
- (11) The registration of transfer must be filed with the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu and a replacement of bond certificate must be issued within 7 days after the registration of transfer. The original bond certificate must be returned to the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu before the transfer can be finalized.

#### 6 Delivery of original citizenship certificates

- (1) The Master Agent or a person authorized by the Master Agent, may deliver to the citizen abroad (if such situation is necessary), the citizenship certificate in accordance with the prescribed guidelines for delivery of such document.
- (2) A citizenship certificate must only be provided to the Master Agent or a person authorized by the Master Agent upon completion of the oath of allegiance procedure by the citizen.

#### 7 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.



#### REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

## **LIQUOR LICENSING ACT [CAP 52]**

### **Schedule 15 (Amendment)** Order No. 45 of 2023

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 23(2) of the Liquor Licensing Act [CAP 52], I, the Honourable CLAUDE CHRISTOPHE EMELEE, Minister of Internal Affairs, make the following Order.

#### **Amendment**

Schedule 15 of the Liquor Licensing Act [CAP 52] is amended as set out in the Schedule.

#### Commencement 2

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 22nd day of March, 2023.

Honourable CLAUDE CHRISTOPHE EMELEE

**Minister of Internal Affairs** 

MINISTRE DE

#### **SCHEDULE**

## AMENDMENTS OF SCHEDULE 15 OF THE LIQUOR LICENSING ACT [CAP 52]

#### 1 Schedule 15

Repeal the Schedule, substitute

"(1) The annual fees payable on the grant of licences for the sale of alcoholic liquors are set out as follows:

Description of license	Annual license fee
Urban General Off - License	222,750VT
Rural General Off - License	111,376VT
Limited Off - License	55,686VT
General On – License (except Bauerfield and Pekoa Airports)	167,062VT
General On – License Bauerfield Airport	148,500VT
General On – License Pekoa Airport	81,676VT
Limited On - License	111,376VT
Combine General On – and Off - License	315,562VT
Combine Limited On – and Off - License	148,500VT
Cinema/Theatre License	92,812VT
Club License	111,376VT
Occasional License	9,280VT
Night – Club License	167,062VT
Aerodrome Boat License	44,550VT
Pleasure Boat License	44,550VT

(2) The annual fees payable on the grant of licences for the sale of alcohol liquor if:

Description of license		Annual license fee
(a)	there are issues in respect of any premises, both a Limited On – License and an Urban General On – License	285,862VT
(b)	there are issues in respect of any premises both a Limited Off – License and a General On - License	185,626VT
(c)	there are issues in respect of any premises, both a General On – License and a Night - Club Licence	222,750VT