

*Commencement: 30 July 1980
except Articles 87 and 93
which commenced 23 October 1979*



Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu

Act 10 of 1980
Act 15 of 1981
Act 20 of 1983

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CHAPTER 3 – CITIZENSHIP

9. Automatic citizens

On the Day of Independence the following persons shall automatically become citizens of Vanuatu –

- (a) a person who has or had four grandparents who belong to a tribe or community indigenous to Vanuatu ; and
- (b) a person of ni- Vanuatu ancestry who has no citizenship, nationality or the status of an optant.

10. Entitlement to citizenship

Every person who on the Day of Independence is a person of ni- Vanuatu ancestry and has the nationality or citizenship of a foreign state or the status of an optant shall become a citizen of Vanuatu if he makes an application, or an application is made on his behalf by his parent or lawful guardian, within 3 months of the Day of Independence or such longer period as Parliament may prescribe. The Vanuatu citizenship of such a person shall automatically lapse if he has not renounced his other citizenship or nationality within 3 months of the granting of Vanuatu

citizenship or such longer period as Parliament may prescribe, except that in the case of a person under the age of 18 years the period of renunciation shall be 3 months after he has reached the age of 18 years.

11. Persons born after day of independence

Anyone born after the Day of Independence, whether in Vanuatu or abroad, shall become a citizen of Vanuatu if at least one of his parents is a citizen of Vanuatu .

12. Naturalisation

A national of a foreign state or a stateless person may apply to be naturalised as a citizen of Vanuatu if he has lived continuously in Vanuatu for at least 10 years immediately before the date of the application.

Parliament may prescribe further conditions of the eligibility to apply for naturalisation and shall provide for the machinery to review and decide on applications for naturalisation.

13. Avoidance of dual nationality

The Republic of Vanuatu does not recognise dual nationality. Any citizen of Vanuatu who is or becomes a citizen of another state shall cease to be a citizen of Vanuatu unless he renounces that other citizenship within 3 months of acquiring Vanuatu citizenship or that other citizenship, as the case may be, or such longer period as Parliament may prescribe, except that in the case of a person under the age of 18 years the period of renunciation shall be 3 months after he has reached the age of 18 years.

14. Further provision for citizenship

Parliament may make provision for the acquisition of citizenship of Vanuatu by persons not covered in the preceding Articles of this Chapter and may make provision for the deprivation and renunciation of citizenship of Vanuatu .

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