January 2023

# Vanuatu Citizenship Application Process

Quick Overview of the Application Process under the Development Support Program (DSP)





Vanuatu Investment Marketing Bureau

#### Your gateway to Vanuatu



#### THE DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAM (DSP)

Vanuatu has successfully operated the DSP, since its launch in January 2017. The Program raises funds in support of the further development of the country through attracting high net worth applicants to take Citizenship in Vanuatu.

The DSP has proven to be highly successful and now represents a major portion of national income. While most of the applicants have historically been from APAC and EMEA, the success of the program has resulted in increasing numbers of applications from around the globe.

With its straight-forward and efficient application process, Vanuatu's DSP is considered one of the most attractive Citizenship by Investment options available anywhere today.



#### VANUATU CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

Applications are processed by a dedicated operations team in Vanuatu to ensure all documents are presented in the correct format and manner for consideration by the Vanuatu Citizenship Commission.

The Application process in Three (3) Stages:

## **1** STAGE 1 - INITIAL DUE DILIGENCE

This stage is carried out by the Vanuatu "Financial Intelligence Unit" (FIU). leading to the issue of a letter of clearance for Citizenship, subject to completing the remaining document and process formalities.

The FIU process is relatively fast – normally seven to ten days depending on the level of background checks deemed necessary.

A Due Diligence Fee of USD 5,000 (including administration fee) is submitted with the Stage One documents. However, this fee is only taken once a high degree of confidence has been established by VIMB (in consultation with the applicant) that the FIU process will be successfully completed.

### 2 STAGE 2 - FULL DOCUMENT SUBMISSION

Upon written confirmation of no adverse findings by the FIU, the applicant submits a completed application form along with all relevant documents (as detailed in the document check list) together with the application payment.

The Citizenship Fees are mandated by the Government and paid via a Government Designated Agent such as VIMB. Application fees are fully refundable should for any reason the Citizenship not complete, as long as 100% of the due amount is paid at time of submission of all documents to the Citizenship Commission.

The Citizenship Commission Committee sits twice a month during which applications are considered over a one day sitting.



#### VANUATU CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

#### **3** STAGE 3 - CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

Following receipt of written confirmation of Citizenship, the final step is the attendance at an Oath-Swearing Ceremony, where the new Citizen receives their Certificate of Vanuatu Citizenship as well as their new Vanuatu Passport (where the Ceremony is in person).

Currently, all ceremonies take place by video link to a Commissioner for Oaths in Vanuatu, following which the Citizenship Certificate and Passport are dispatched via an agreed channel.



**GOVERNMENT MANDATED FEES AND PAYMENT** 

# **DUE DILIGENCE FEE (NON-REFUNDABLE)**

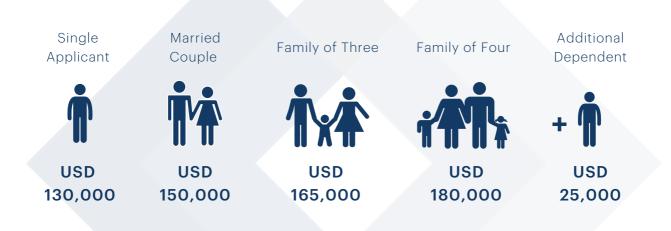


**USD 5,000** 

The Due Diligence Fee of USD 5,000 (non-refundable) is submitted with the Stage One documents.

#### **CITIZENSHIP FEES** 2

Applicant must submit completed Application Form and all relevant documents together with the full application payment.



#### Notes:

A. An additional "fulfilment fee" of USD 2,000\*\* is payable for passport production, Ceremony organisation and document delivery. (for a single applicant only, after that USD 1,250 will be charged per extra person.)

B. All funds are processed via VIMB as Government Designated Agent for clearance into the government account in Vanuatu.

C. Mandated Fees must be paid in full. The Vanuatu Government conducts checks to ensure full fees have been remitted by the applicant. Failure to pay in full for Citizenship under the DSP is unlawful, and may result in Citizenship being declined or cancelled.