

# Vanuatu Citizenship Development Support Program(DSP)



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# Benefits of Vanuatu Citizenship

- 🕒 Fast processing time - between 6 to 8 weeks

Vanuatu is the fastest processing of any citizenship by investment program in the world and the only one in South Pacific.

- 🕒 Instant visa free or visa on arrival to more than 91 countries & territories including UK, Singapore and Hong Kong.

You can stay 6 months in a year in the United Kingdom.

- 🕒 Benefits of Commonwealth countries

Commonwealth citizens are entitled to extra assistance from British Embassies if they were to face difficulty in a non-Commonwealth country whilst travelling.

- 🕒 No income tax, no corporate tax, no capital gains tax, no estate tax, no wealth tax, no withholding tax, no gift tax and no other personal income taxes. Most the taxes are collected from VAT (15%) and through excise taxes.

Vanuatu is business friendly. The opportunity for new entrepreneurial options, internationalization and business expansion on a global scale.

- 🕒 Safe environment for you and your family

Stable, peaceful country - Voted happiest place on earth in 2006.

- 🕒 Citizenship is hereditary\*

Applicant and his family enjoy full citizenship for life, which can be passed on to future generations by descent.

- 🕒 Donation contribution only, no other investment required

- 🕒 No physical residence requirements in Vanuatu during or after the application procedure

- 🕒 There are no language competency requirements to be met by the applicant(s) when applying for Vanuatu Citizenship.

- 🕒 Applicants are eligible to apply for a Vanuatu driving license, National ID and Vanuatu birth certificate\* (mandatory to renew your Vanuatu passport) upon granting of Vanuatu Citizenship.

\*Conditions and additional fees apply. Please refer to the FAQ.

# Our Services

AJC is an advisory and accounting firm established in Vanuatu since 2003. We offer a wide range of company services, incorporation of local and offshore companies, corporate secretariat and support to investors seeking to obtain different kinds of licenses issued by Vanuatu Administrations. We also assist individuals applying for Vanuatu Citizenship under the Development Support Program (DSP).

Our clients are located all over the world including China, Hong Kong, Israel, India, Singapore, the United States, Australia, United Kingdom and Russia.

AJC is a company and trust service provider fully recognized by the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission; we are one of the only 15 approved auditors in the country.

We are therefore particularly well suited to provide you with trustable services to fulfil your Citizenship application.

The procedure to apply for citizenship under the DSP program requires a designated agent appointed by the Vanuatu Citizenship Commission.

EC HOLDINGS - a branch of AJC - has been appointed as DSP Agent to accompany you during the whole application process and successfully obtain your citizenship.

AJC offers a better, more trusted and professional services than any other service provider. Through its team of fully English/French/Bichelama trilingual advisors, our services provide you a maximum protection as we manage the money transfers through our locally based trust company.

We are definitely a trusted partner you can count on.



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**Australia**

**Vanuatu**

# VANUATU - Country of Opportunity

Vanuatu is a South Pacific Ocean nation made of an archipelago of 83 islands stretching 1300 kilometers.

Multiple waves of colonizers, each speaking a distinct language, migrated to the Melanesian Islands in the millennia preceding European exploration. This settlement patterns accounts for the complex linguistic found on the archipelago to this day. The British and French settled on the islands during the 19th Century and called the newly formed country "New Hebrides". In 1906, they agreed to an Anglo-French Condominium, which administered the islands until independence in 1980, when the new name of Vanuatu was adopted.

## Population

308,396 (September 2020 estimate).  
Population Growth rate 2.40%.

## Economy

Primarily based on small-scale agriculture, which provides a living for about two thirds of the population, especially livestock farming which is the second target for growth.

A small light industry sector caters to the local market.

Tax revenues come mainly from VAT, excise and transaction taxes.

Fishing, offshore financial services and tourism are also another source of revenue for the country with an estimated 116,000 visitors in 2018. Australia, New Zealand and China are the main source of tourists and aid.

Since 2002, the Government has stepped up efforts to boost tourism through improved air connections, resort development and cruise ships facilities. These efforts have reached another milestone when Air Vanuatu, the national airlines, made the announcement of the acquisition of a second Boeing 737 to its current fleet, which should be concretized around June 2023. This will increase the international rotations to new cities in Australia, New Zealand and other Pacific countries.

In 2018, revenues from citizenship sales has become the single largest source of revenue in Vanuatu today, overtaking revenue generated from VAT for the first time.

## Travelling to Vanuatu

You can fly to Port Vila's Bauerfield International airport (VLI) directly from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Solomon, New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea.

The islands offer scuba diving at coral reefs, underwater caverns and wrecks such as the WWII-era troopship SS President Coolidge. Hiking trails ascend active volcanoes such as Mt Yasur. Other popular activities include rainforest ecotours, kayaking and deep-sea fishing, plus relaxing at resorts and spas.

### AJC Vanuatu

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### Business hours (GMT+11)

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Saturday, Sunday **Closed**

[ajc-vanuatu.com/citizenship](http://ajc-vanuatu.com/citizenship)

# The Development Support Program (DSP)

Starting January 2017, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu has launched the Development Support Program (DSP) for the purpose of raising funds to support infrastructure and promoting economic development of Vanuatu.

The DSP is a provision enacted by the Vanuatu Government under the Citizenship Act with the powers conferred on the Prime Minister. Candidates may apply for Vanuatu Citizenship by contributions to the Government of Vanuatu of **US\$136,200** for single applicant and up to **US\$186,890** for a family of 4 members\*.

It is possible to include extra dependents\*\* in an application, additional charges apply.

The nationality acquired is regarded as Ni-Vanuatu and the citizenship is hereditary. Those applying for and receiving Vanuatu Citizenship under the DSP program have the full rights to reside and work in Vanuatu at all times. The passport is valid for a period of 10 years and renewable upon expiry.

\*Family applications include 2 married adults and 2 children under the age of 18 years.  
\*\*Definition of dependents is available in the F.A.Q.

## Costs

Tables Fees Citizenship (DSP)					
Application	Single applicant	Married couple without child	Married couple with one child under 18 years old	Married couple with three children under 18 years old	Married couple with one extra dependent
Selling prices	130 000	150 000	165 000	180 000	150 000
Citizenship Commission application fee	50	50	50	50	50
Certificate fee	100	200	300	500	300
Passport application*	250	500	570	710	750
Due Diligence Checks (VFIU)	5 500	5 500	5 500	5 500	5 500
Commissioner of Oath	300	300	300	300	300
Extra dependent child under 18 years of age				10 000	
Extra dependent between the ages of 18 to 25 years of age OR Extra dependent aged 50 years of age and above					10 000
<b>TOTAL USD:</b>	<b>136 200</b>	<b>156 550</b>	<b>171 720</b>	<b>197 060</b>	<b>166 900</b>

Additional costs apply to complete the last steps of the citizenship application, being the collection of Vanuatu passports. Further details are provided below.

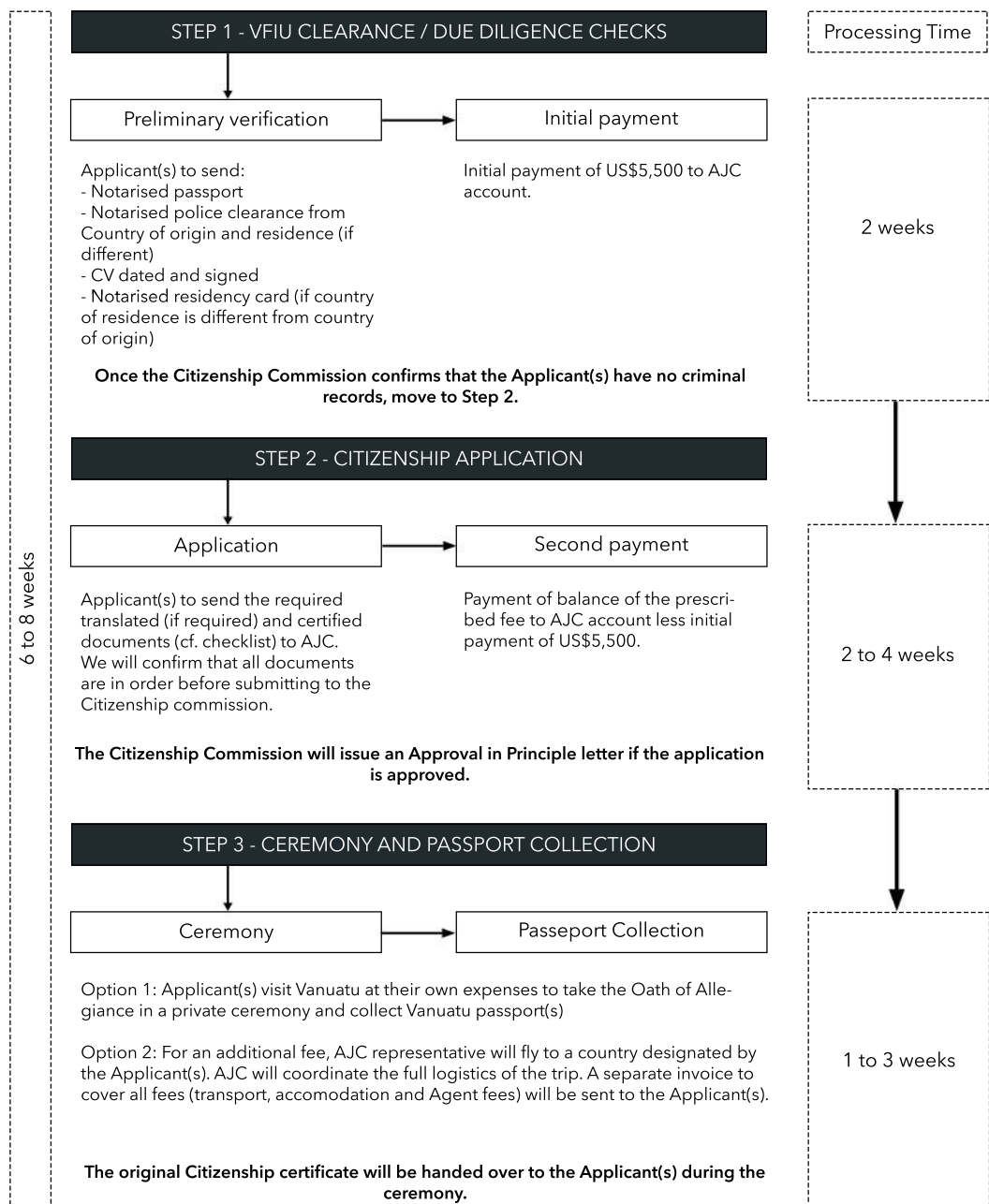
\*Fee may slightly vary depending on the age of the children.

# Process

The process is relatively simple and straight forward once all the required documents are in our possession. It usually takes about 8 to 10 weeks to complete the full process. We will assist you all along the way to make sure all documents provided are compliant with the Citizenship Commission requirements to avoid any delay with your application.

There are no language competency requirements to be met by the applicant(s) when applying for Vanuatu Citizenship.

There is no obligation to visit or live in Vanuatu before or during the application process.





# Application

## **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

The Applicant(s) must not have any criminal records and must be fit and proper person(s) to be eligible to apply to the DSP.

- 🕒 All documents can be scanned to us.
- 🕒 All documents are to be translated into English if applicable, and translations to be certified.
- 🕒 All documents are to be certified as indicated by a Public Notary, Justice of Peace, Commissioner for Oaths or Solicitor.

## **1. VFIU CLEARANCE**

### **Documents to be provided for each individual included in the application:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified valid passport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified police clearance dated less than 3 months of the country of origin and country of residence (if different) - (N/A to children under 12 years old)
<input type="checkbox"/>	CV signed and dated confirming education and employment history (N/A to children under 18)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certified residency card (if country of residence is different from country of origin)

Upon receipt of the above documents, we will circulate an Agreement for services for execution along with our initial invoice of US\$5,500 to complete the 1st step.

**Please note that the fee of US\$5,500 is non-refundable if any adverse information is found against the Applicant(s)**



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## 2. APPLICATION FOR CITIZENSHIP

Additional documents may be required or requested.

### Principal candidate's required documents

- Signed Nomination Form
- Copy of National ID
- Birth certificate / or approved option
- Medical Certificate
- 1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file
- Asset report confirming assets > US\$ 250,000 in the Candidate's name
- Bank reference / letter of Good Standing
- Employment letter
- Marriage certificate (for couple or family application only)
- 2 professional referees to confirm the good character of the Candidate
- Degree / Diploma where available
- Proof of current residential address dated less than 3 months (utility bill, bank statement etc.)

### Required documents for Spouse

- Signed Nomination Form
- Copy of National ID
- Birth certificate / or approved option
- Medical certificate
- 1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file
- Proof of current residential address dated less than 3 months (utility bill, bank statement etc.)

### Required documents for dependent children under 18 year old

- Signed Nomination Form
- Copy of National ID
- Birth certificate
- Medical certificate
- 1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file

### Dependent resident 18 to 25 years and 50 years plus

- Signed Nomination Form
- Copy of National ID
- Birth certificate
- Medical certificate
- 1 Color photo (40mm x 50mm) - JPEG file
- Degree or Education certificate - if available

### 3. PAYMENT OF FEES

There are 2 payment options once we confirm that all documents are in order:

- 🕒 100% of the prescribed fee processed in one payment. If the application is declined, AJC / EC Holdings will process the refund of 75% of the prescribed fee, less bank fees\*.
- 🕒 25% of the prescribed fee processed upon submission of the application to the Citizenship Commission, and the balance of 75% to be paid upon receipt of the Approval in Principle from the Citizenship commission within 30 days.

Payments are processed to AJC / EC Holdings trust accounts to offer applicants more security.

**\*Please note that 25% of the prescribed fee is retained by the Vanuatu Government and non-refundable if the Citizenship Commission declines the application.**

### 4. VANUATU PASSPORT APPLICATION

#### Documents to be provided for each individual included in the application:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Signed form
<input type="checkbox"/>	1 Color photograph (40mm x 50 mm) - JPEG file with name of applicant behind the photo + date + signature of witness

### 5. CEREMONY & COLLECTION OF PASSPORTS

Once the full payment of the prescribed fee has been completed, we will organize the Oath of Allegiance Ceremony and collection of passports. Once the Oath of Allegiance is completed, the applicant officially becomes a Vanuatu Citizen and is being handed an original Citizenship Certificate.

Additional fees apply to complete step 5 as the physical presence of the applicant is required (not applicable to children under 18 years old).

The Ceremony can be performed through visio conference and the delivery / collection of passports can take place in Vanuatu or overseas:

- 🕒 In Vanuatu

The Applicant must take at his/her own expenses the costs of his/her transportation to Vanuatu and accommodation.

AJC will organize the logistics of the Ceremony along with the collection of the Applicant(s) Vanuatu passport(s) from a Passport Officer in person (mandatory).

- 🕒 Overseas

The applicant will have to pay for the travelling costs of one AJC representative. This includes air tickets, accommodation and individual fees.

The costs will vary depending on the selected country. AJC will manage the logistics of the trip.

# LIST OF COUNTRIES

## Detailed list of visa requirement for Vanuatu Passport\*

Countries	Visa requirements	Duration
Abkhazia	Visa Not required	30 days
Andorra	Visa Not required	90 days
Anguilla	Visa Not required	90 days
Antigua and Barbuda	Visa Not required	30 days
Austria	Visa Not required	90 days
Bahamas	Visa Not required	90 days
Barbados	Visa Not required	90 days
Belarus	Visa Not required	90 days
Belgium	Visa Not required	90 days
Belize	Visa Not required	30 days
Bermuda	Visa Not required	
Botswana	Visa Not required	90 days
British Virgin Islands	Visa Not required	
Cayman Islands	Visa Not required	30 days
Columbia	No Tourist visa required	
Cook Islands	Visa Not required	
Costa Rica	Visa Not required	30 days
Czech Republic	Visa Not required	90 days
Denmark	Visa Not required	90 days
Dominica	Visa Not required	6 months
Dominican Republic	Visa Not required	30 days
Ecuador	Visa Not required	90 days
El Salvador	Visa Not required	3 months
Estonia	Visa Not required	90 days
Federated States of Micronesia	Visa Not required	30 days
Fiji	Visa Not required	4 months
Finland	Visa Not required	90 days
Gibraltar	Visa Not required	6 months
Grenada	Visa Not required	90 days
Guadeloupe (Fr)	Visa Not required	90 days
Guatemala	Visa Not required	90 days
Haiti	Visa Not required	90 days
Honduras	Visa Not required	90 days
Hong Kong	Visa Not required	90 days
Hungary	Visa Not required	90 days
Iceland	Visa Not required	90 days
Indonesia	Visa Not required	30 days
Israel	Visa Not required	
Jamaica	Visa Not required	Visa waived
Kenya	Visa Not required	90 days
Kiribati	Visa Not required	28 days
Kosovo	Visa Not required	90 days
Latvia	Visa Not required	90 days
Lesotho	Visa Not required	14 days

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Countries	Visa requirements	Duration
Liechtenstein	Visa Not required	90 days
Lithuania	Visa Not required	90 days
Luxembourg	Visa Not required	90 days
Malawi	Visa Not required	90 days
Malaysia	Visa Not required	2 months
Maldives	Visa Not required	30 days
Malta	Visa Not required	90 days
Martinique	Visa Not required	90 days
Mauritius	Visa Not required	60 days
Mayotte (Fr)	Visa Not required	90 days
Nauru	Visa Not required	30 days
Nicaragua	Visa Not required	90 days
Niue	Visa Not required	30 days
Norway	Visa Not required	90 days
Panama		
Papua New Guinea	Visa Not required	
Peru	Visa Not required	90 days
Philippines	Visa Not required	21 days
Pitcairn Islands	Visa Not required	14 days
Poland	Visa Not required	90 days
Portugal	Visa Not required	90 days
Reunion Island (Fr)	Visa Not required	90 days
Russia	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Helena*	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Lucia	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Pierre and Miquelon (Fr)	Visa Not required	90 days
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Visa Not required	30 days
Samoa	Visa Not required	60 days
Seychelles	Visa Not required	30 days
Singapore	Visa Not required	30 days
Slovakia	Visa Not required	90 days
Slovenia	Visa Not required	90 days
Solomon Islands	Visa Not required	90 days
South Korea	Visa Not required	30 days
South Ossetia		
Spain	Visa Not required	90 days
Sweden	Visa Not required	90 days
Switzerland	Visa Not required	90 days
Tanzania	Visa Not required	90 days
Tokelau	Visa Not required	30 days
Tonga	Visa Not required	30 days
Trinidad and Tobago	Visa Not required	
Turks and Caicos Islands	Visa Not required	30 days
Tuvalu	Visa Not required	
Uganda	Visa Not required	6 months
United Kingdom including Guernsey, Isle of man & Jersey	Visa Not required	6 months
Zambia	Visa Not required	90 days
Zimbabwe	Visa Not required	90 days

# FAQ

## 1. Restricted countries

Any citizen of the following countries is excluded from the program:

- Iran
- Iraq
- North Korea
- Syria
- Yemen

This country list is subject to change at any time.

### Exemptions:

The commission may accept applications from restricted countries if the applicant shows that he or she

- (1) has not resided in the restricted country for the past 5 years;
- (2) and provides evidence of permanent residency abroad.

## 2. Birth certificate

The birth certificate is mandatory.

In case a birth certificate cannot be provided, the applicant can ask a solicitor to issue a notarial certificate confirming his/her date and country of birth.

## 3. Second ID

It can be a national ID, a driver license, or any other documents with a photo and confirming the ID.

If any of these documents are not available, a bank reference letter confirming the Identity or a statement from a lawyer confirming the identity of the person and including a photo, full name, date of birth, nationality.

## 4. Asset proof

The asset report will serve to justify that the applicant has the funds into his/her bank account or assets in his/her name (minimum of US\$250,000). It can be a bank statement, equity report compiled by an accounting firm etc.

The Applicant(s) will also provide bank statements showing sufficient funds to cover the total application fee.

## 5. Bank reference

The bank reference is a letter of Good Standing issued by the Applicant's main bank, confirming his/her good standing and good run of accounts.

## 6. Payment of fees

The full amount needs to be transferred by the applicant to AJC / EC Holdings as the Government will request a proof of the said payment.

## 7. Website

Vanuatu Development Support Program (DSP) can be verified under this link: <https://vancitizenship.gov.vu/>

## 8. Who is responsible for filling forms?

The Applicant is responsible for completing the forms.

## 9. Is it possible to add dependents after granting citizenship to the main applicant?

No they must be part of the application. If citizenship is requested after, this will be considered as a new application and the same conditions apply (proof of asset > US\$250,000 etc.) for dependants over 18 years old. Others conditions and fees apply for children under 18 years old.

## 10. Does a newborn child receive citizenship automatically?

Yes. Vanuatu citizenship is granted for life and it will be passed onto your children and future generations. A Vanuatu passport can be issued for the newborn child. One of the parent will need to provide a copy of his/her Citizenship certificate, certified copy of his/her Police clearance if the one we have on file is dated less than 3 months and a certified copy of his/her passport if the one we have on file is expired in addition to the regular documents required for a dependent child. Additional fees apply. Please feel free to contact us to obtain a quote.

## 11. Is it important to be officially married or civil Spouse can apply for citizenship?

Yes, only official marriages are recognized.

## 12. Is it possible to include children from previous marriages into an application?

Yes. "Children" means:

A natural or adopted son or daughter of an Applicant or his or her spouse who is or between the age of 18 and 25 years

## 13. How long is the VFIU clearance valid for?

The initial VFIU clearance is valid for 6 months. Beyond this timeframe, if the application is incomplete or the full payment has not been received, the initial payment of US\$5,500 paid will be forfeited.

If the applicant wishes to pursue the application, a new VFIU screening will be mandatory along with a new payment of US\$5,500.

## 14. What are the reasons for rejection of citizenship application?

We have never experienced any rejection after obtaining the VIFU clearance. But the final decision lays with the Citizenship Commission.

## 15. Can individuals who are not working apply for citizenship?

Yes, as long as the source of funds documents are in order.

## 16. Does the government of Vanuatu request additional documents?

They can. But we have never experienced that. The documents listed by AJC are usually sufficient.

## 17. How can payments be processed?

### Is cryptocurrency accepted?

At this stage, Bitcoins/Cryptocurrency would be considered on a case by case basis, and subject to a 15% surcharge if approved by AJC Management.

### Is it possible for THIRD PARTIES to pay for the candidate's application?

Yes, as long as the applicant can justify cash/assets of US\$250,000 minimum in his/her name. But assets cannot be under the Third Party's name.

The Third Party Individual will have to provide a copy of his/her certified passport along with a letter confirming why he/she is paying on behalf of the applicant (confirm the relationship) and provide 6 last month Bank statements from where the transfer will be initiated.

### In what currency can payment be made?

The Vanuatu Citizenship Commission accepts AUD, NZD and JPY.

### How long does it take for the funds to be cleared by the bank?

Our bank will undertake due diligence & compliance checks once funds are received. This procedure may take between 3 to 5 days before the bank releases the funds into our account.

## 18. How much will it cost to have the Passport delivered overseas?

Those fees are variable depending on the country. They include airfares, accommodation and agent fees.

For an estimate, it will cost about US\$25,000 for a trip to Dubai and India, and about US\$15,000 to Hong Kong and Singapore. AJC will be in charge of the logistic of the trip, we will confirm the date, time and place of the Ceremony.

## 19. What are the timelines of each step?

- 🕒 VFIU and other due diligence checks: 2 weeks.
- 🕒 Citizenship application: There are two (2) sittings of the Citizenship Commission per month (mid- month and end of month), and the granting of the citizenship is officially announced 3 or 4 days after the session of the Commission.  
Therefore, the decision will be rendered between **2 and 4 weeks** from the date of submission.
- 🕒 Passport application: it usually takes **3 to 5 business days** to issue the passport.



## **20. Can I change my name?**

No, it is no longer possible since June 2021 for dual citizenship holders to apply for a name change.

## **21. Can I obtain a Vanuatu driving license?**

If you are already holding an international driving license, yes. You will be able to have the same category of vehicles on your Vanuatu driving license. The driving license is valid 3 years. The Applicant must be physically present in the country for the first application.

The total cost is US\$600.

## **22. Can I apply for a Vanuatu birth certificate and National ID card?**

Yes. A Vanuatu birth certificate will have to be provided for the renewal of your Vanuatu passport in 10 years, so you can already apply for one, along with a National ID.

The total cost is US\$1,500.

## **23. What is the impact on the Vanuatu Citizenship since the country lost its visa waiver with EU?**

The Applicant still holds Vanuatu Citizenship. The slight difference is that EU is not automatically granting tourist visas on arrival to Vanuatu citizens anymore. The process of obtaining a Schengen visa is quite simple and requires a few supporting documents such as ticket, bank statements, proof of accommodation etc.

When granted for tourism or business purposes, you can stay up to 90 days in every six-month period starting from the date of entry and move freely in the Schengen member countries as there are no border controls within the Schengen zone.

AJC can assist with the application of a Schengen visa.

## **24. I obtained Vanuatu citizenship through the DSP Program. Now that the program doesn't offer visa-free travel, is there any plan from the Government to reimburse investors?**

Vanuatu citizenship still holds high value for various reasons despite not offering any more tourist visas to the EU zone. Vanuatu citizenship still grants its holder easy automatic access to Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK, Israel, Russia, and many other nations.

## **25. Is there any chance that the EU reverts on its decision and grants the visa waiver again ?**

The Vanuatu Government is working closely with the EU to reinstate the visa waiver, with the lobby of most of the DSP Agents.

That is to say, it is difficult at this stage to assess the EU's position.



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