



Citizenship's Office and Commission  
Government of Vanuatu

## **The Vanuatu Development Support Program (DSP)**

### **Honorary Citizenship Scheme**

The Vanuatu Development Support Program (DSP) is a new citizenship scheme, launched in 2017 to replace all previous Citizenship Programs previously run by the Vanuatu Government, such as the Vanuatu Economic Rehabilitation Program (VERP), or Capital Investment Immigration Plan (CIIP).

The primary difference between the DSP and previous Programs is the favorable cost structure, with a 'flat-fee' cost of full Honorary Citizenship being US\$280K for up to four family members.

Fees for DPS are paid direct to the Vanuatu Government via the Government appointed Legal Counsel, and not to any intermediary or agent. This mechanism is to provide applicants with full confidence in the probity and integrity of the Programme.

#### **DPS key features are:**

1. Simple and straight forward application process guided by the Vanuatu Government through four officially accredited overseas agents.
2. Transparent, simple fee structure – No payments to Agents.
3. All fees paid directly to Vanuatu Government via the Vanuatu Government Lawyer.
4. Ease of Citizenship declaration – for example, in Hong Kong for PRC Nationals.
5. Fast processing – approximately 30 days to 90 days subject to documents.
6. The granting of "Honorary" Citizenship rather than "Full" Citizenship enables the scheme to confer all the benefits of a second passport, without violating the Constitution of countries which forbid Dual Citizenship.
7. Exclusivity – very limited quota of Citizenships/passports released through carefully controlled channels. More assured international standing than various widely-disseminated schemes, aggressively marketed through multiple agents.

#### **Vanuatu Citizen Benefits:**

1. British Commonwealth Territory.
2. English and French speaking.
3. Legal system based on British Common Law.
4. Wide visa-free travel (124 countries) – including EU, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand.
5. An established South-Pacific country - a safe and hospitable paradise, excellent restaurants, hotels and shops and a beautiful climate.



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6. More easily accessible from Asia than other 2nd Citizen program countries: from Australia and New Zealand – direct flights from Brisbane on Virgin Australia.
7. Offshore Banking Centre with high degree of privacy (global ranked No 2), and simple Corporate structures.
8. Low Profile compared to other Tax-Free Jurisdictions and popular 2nd Citizenship schemes.

#### **Application Process:**

1. Firstly the Pre-Approval requiring an upfront fee of US\$5,000 paid to the Vanuatu Government Lawyer (simply the Pre-Approval Application Form and a notarised copy of the Applicant's passport picture page).
2. A bank statement (or equivalent) along with the Pre-Approval Form to demonstrate financial capability may be required.
3. Within a week of submitting Pre Approval Application Form, Vanuatu Government will confirm with an "FIU clearance to proceed" letter. On receipt of this 'pre-approval' the Client will be required to proceed as follows:
  - Complete the full Application Form.
  - Provide required supporting documents.
  - Transfer the full remaining application fees to Vanuatu Government Legal Agent, BANI LAW, in Vanuatu.
4. Within 30 to 45 days client will receive the confirmation letter that the Citizen Certificate and passport are ready for him/her to attend the Oath Ceremony and collect.
5. Client will be given an appointment time to attend the Oath ceremony. This can be completed in Hong Kong, but other global locations available.
6. On completion of the Oath ceremony Client will be given Certificate of Citizenship and passport.