



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

PASSPORTS ACT NO. 20 OF 2009

Arrangement of Sections

PART 1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Interpretation..... | 3 |
| 2 | Principal Passport Officer..... | 3 |
| 3 | Delegation of the functions or powers of the Principal Passport Officer..... | 4 |

PART 2 VANUATU PASSPORTS AND OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Division 1 - Issue of Vanuatu Passports

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| 4 | Issue of Vanuatu passports | 5 |
| 5 | Issue of Vanuatu passports to children | 6 |
| 6 | Validity of Vanuatu passports..... | 6 |
| 7 | Lost or stolen Vanuatu passports | 6 |

Division 2 - Certificates of identity and other travel documents

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 8 | Issue of certificates of identity and travel documents..... | 7 |
|---|---|---|

Division 3 - Surrender and cancellation of Vanuatu Passports and Other Travel Documents

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| 9 | Cancellation of Vanuatu passport where holder is no longer entitled | 7 |
| 10 | Cancellation of Vanuatu passport on other grounds..... | 8 |
| 11 | Cancellation of certificate of identity or travel document | 9 |

Division 4 - Power of the Court in relation to Vanuatu passport or travel document

| | | |
|----|--|----|
| 12 | Power of Court to order surrender of Vanuatu passport or travel document in criminal proceedings | 11 |
| 13 | Power of Court to order surrender of Vanuatu passport or travel document in civil proceedings | 11 |

PART 3 OFFENCES

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 14 | False documents..... | 12 |
| 15 | Making false or misleading statements..... | 12 |
| 16 | Improper use or possession of Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document | 12 |
| 17 | Unauthorised alteration, destruction or sale of Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document..... | 13 |
| 18 | Offences relating to document information and material | 13 |
| 19 | Improper issue of documents | 15 |
| 20 | Failure to surrender document | 15 |
| 21 | Penalties | 15 |
| 22 | Jurisdiction in respect of actions taken outside Vanuatu | 15 |

PART 4 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Division 1 - Review of decisions in relation to Vanuatu Passports

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|
| 23 | Review of decisions by Minister | 16 |
| 24 | Appeal to Supreme Court | 17 |

Division 2 - Disclosure of Vanuatu Passport, certificate of identity or travel document information

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 25 | Disclosure of Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document information..... | 17 |
| 26 | Other Acts not affected | 18 |

PART 5 MISCELLANEOUS

| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 27 | Passports and other travel documents are the property of the Republic of Vanuatu | 19 |
| 28 | Regulations | 19 |
| 29 | Penal Code Act not affected | 19 |
| 30 | Transitional provision relating to endorsement of name of child on passport of parent or guardian | 19 |
| 31 | Repeals..... | 20 |
| 32 | Savings..... | 20 |
| 33 | Commencement | 20 |

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

PASSPORTS ACT NO. 20 OF 2009

Assent: 23/07/2009
Commencement: 17/08/2009

An Act to provide for the issue and administration of Vanuatu passports, certificates of identity and other travel documents, and for related matters.

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows—

PART 1 PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1 Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

citizen means a citizen of the Republic of Vanuatu;

holder means a person in whose name and to whom a passport, certificate of identity or travel document has been issued;

Minister means the Minister responsible for Internal Affairs;

Principal Passport Officer means the Principal Passport Officer appointed under section 2;

Public Service Commission means the Public Service Commission referred to in Article 59 of the Constitution;

Vanuatu passport means a Vanuatu passport issued under sections 4 and 5.

2 Principal Passport Officer

- (1) The Minister of Internal Affairs is to appoint in writing a person to be the Principal Passport Officer.
- (2) A person must not be appointed to the position of the Principal Passport Officer unless he or she has:
 - (a) a degree in public administration from a recognised university; or
 - (b) 7 to 10 years experience in the field of immigration and passport services.

- (3) The Minister may by Order prescribe other criteria for the appointment of a Principal Passport Officer
- (4) The Principal Passport Officer is responsible for carrying out the functions and exercising the powers of the Principal Passport Officer under this Act or any other Act.
- (5) The Public Service Commission may terminate the employment of any person holding the position of Principal Passport Officer in accordance with the Public Service Act [CAP 246] and the Public Service Staff Manual.

3 Delegation of the functions or powers of the Principal Passport Officer

- (1) For the purposes of this section:

officer means any officer of the Passports Office.

- (2) The Principal Passport Officer may, in writing, delegate to any officer his or her powers or functions under this Act, other than the power of delegation.
- (3) The delegation may be made generally, or in respect of a particular matter or class of matters.
- (4) The Principal Passport Officer may at any time revoke or vary a delegation.
- (5) A delegation does not prevent the Principal Passport Officer from exercising the power or function that he or she has delegated.

PART 2 VANUATU PASSPORTS AND OTHER TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Division 1 - Issue of Vanuatu Passports

4 Issue of Vanuatu passports

- (1) Subject to this section and section 5, the Principal Passport Officer is to issue a Vanuatu passport to every citizen who makes an application, or on whose behalf an application is made, for a passport.
- (2) The application must be made in the prescribed form and accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (3) The Principal Passport Officer may refuse to issue a Vanuatu passport in any of the following circumstances, if:
 - (a) there is in force a warrant issued in Vanuatu for the arrest of the applicant; or
 - (b) the applicant is on bail or has been remanded into custody; or
 - (c) the applicant is subject to an order made or a sentence imposed by a court, the effect of which requires the applicant to remain in Vanuatu; or
 - (d) the applicant has been released on parole and the period of parole has not expired; or
 - (e) the Principal Passport Officer has formed the opinion that if a Vanuatu passport is issued to an applicant, the applicant will likely engage in conduct that might endanger the health or physical safety of other persons; or
 - (f) the applicant already holds a Vanuatu passport and there is no sufficient reason why another Vanuatu passport should be issued to him or her.
- (4) In addition to subsection (3), the Principal Passport Officer may refuse to issue a Vanuatu passport to an applicant if the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that:
 - (a) the applicant is a danger to the security of the Republic of Vanuatu because the applicant intends to engage in, or facilitate a terrorist act within the meaning of section 3 of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Act No. 29 of 2005; and

- (b) the danger to the security of Vanuatu cannot be effectively averted by other means; and
 - (c) the refusal to issue a passport will prevent or effectively impede the ability of the applicant to carry out the intended action.
- (5) If the Principal Passport Officer refuses to issue a Vanuatu passport under subsection (3) or (4), the Principal Passport Officer must, within 7 days of making the decision, give written notice of that decision to the applicant that:
 - (a) states the decision and the reasons for it; and
 - (b) describes the right of review conferred by section 23; and
 - (c) states the period within which an application for review of the decision may be lodged as prescribed by subsection 23(3).

5 Issue of Vanuatu passports to children

The Principal Passport Officer must not issue a Vanuatu passport to a child under the age of 18 years unless one of his or her parents or legal guardians has consented in writing to the issue of the passport to him or her.

6 Validity of Vanuatu passports

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), every Vanuatu passport is valid for 5 years from the date of issue, unless sooner cancelled under this Act.
- (2) The Principal Passport Officer may, in any particular case, if satisfied that good reasons exist, determine that any Vanuatu passport be issued for a period shorter than 5 years.

7 Lost or stolen Vanuatu passports

- (1) A person whose Vanuatu passport has been lost or stolen must report the loss or theft to the Principal Passport Officer as soon as practicable after he or she knows that the passport has been either lost or stolen.
- (2) The Principal Passport Officer must, on receipt of the report, cancel the Vanuatu passport that has been reported lost or stolen.
- (3) An application for the replacement of a lost or stolen Vanuatu passport must be made in the same manner as an application for the issue of a new passport.
- (4) If a person finds or otherwise locates the Vanuatu passport that he or she has reported lost or stolen, that person must surrender the passport to the Principal Passport Officer as soon as practicable after he or she discovers the passport.

Division 2 - Certificates of identity and other travel documents

8 Issue of certificates of identity and travel documents

- (1) The Principal Passport Officer must, on application, issue a certificate of identity or a travel document to a citizen if the Principal Passport Officer is satisfied that the person has an urgent need to travel and it is not practicable to issue a Vanuatu passport to the person.
- (2) The Principal Passport Officer may, on application, issue a certificate of identity or travel document to a person who the Principal Passport Officer is satisfied is either stateless or a refugee.
- (3) The Principal Passport Officer may, on application, issue a certificate of identity or travel document to any person if the Principal Passport Officer is satisfied that the person:
 - (a) is not a citizen; and
 - (b) is unable or unwilling for any reason to obtain a travel document from the Government or other appropriate authority in the country of his or her nationality; and
 - (c) needs the certificate of identity or travel document to leave Vanuatu.
- (4) The application for a certificate of identity or travel document must be made in the prescribed form and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.
- (5) A certificate of identity or travel document is valid for a period of 12 months from the date of issue unless sooner cancelled under this Act.

Division 3 - Surrender and cancellation of Vanuatu Passports and Other Travel Documents

9 Cancellation of Vanuatu passport where holder is no longer entitled

- (1) The Principal Passport Officer may cancel any Vanuatu passport and take and retain possession of it in any of the following cases, if:
 - (a) the holder has not attained the age of 18 years and the parent or guardian who gave his or her consent to the issue of the passport has written to the Principal Passport Officer withdrawing that consent; or
 - (b) the passport was issued to the holder in the mistaken belief that the holder was, at the time of issue, a citizen; or

- (c) the holder has lost, been deprived of or renounced citizenship under sections 14 to 17 of the Citizenship Act [CAP 112]; or
 - (d) 2 or more valid Vanuatu passports are in existence in respect of the holder and there is no longer any sufficient reason why that should continue to be the case; or
 - (e) the Principal Passport Officer becomes aware of circumstances which, if they had existed immediately before the passport was issued (whether or not they did exist at that time) would have led him or her to refuse to issue the passport to the person concerned under subsection 4(3).
- (2) A person who has possession or control of a Vanuatu passport to which subsection (1) applies must, on demand by the Principal Passport Officer, surrender the passport to the Principal Passport Officer.

10 Cancellation of Vanuatu passport on other grounds

- (1) The Principal Passport Officer may cancel any Vanuatu passport and take and retain possession of it in any of the following cases, if:
- (a) the Principal Passport Officer issues to the holder another Vanuatu passport in substitution for the first one; or
 - (b) the Vanuatu passport has expired; or
 - (c) the Principal Passport Officer is of the opinion that the Vanuatu passport has been damaged or defaced as to render it unsuitable for use; or
 - (d) the Vanuatu passport has been lost or stolen; or
 - (e) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that particulars recorded in the Vanuatu passport are incorrect; or
 - (f) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that the Vanuatu passport has been obtained by means of any wilfully false or misleading statement; or
 - (g) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that the Vanuatu passport is in the wrongful possession of any person other than the holder; or
 - (h) the holder has died; or
 - (i) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that the holder:

- (i) intends to engage in or has taken part in terrorist trainings;
or
 - (ii) intends to facilitate or has facilitated a terrorist act within the meaning of section 3 of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Act No. 29 of 2005; or
- (j) the Principal Passport Officer is authorised to do so in emergency regulations made under Article 69 of the Constitution.
- (2) A person who has possession or control of a Vanuatu passport to which subsection (1) applies must, on demand by the Principal Passport Officer, surrender the passport to the Principal Passport Officer.
- (3) If the Principal Passport Officer retains or cancels a Vanuatu passport under paragraph (1)(b), (c), (d), (e), or (f), the Principal Passport Officer may, on application by the holder, issue another Vanuatu passport to replace that passport.
- (4) Sections 4 to 6 (as the case may be) apply to any application made under subsection (3).
- (5) If the Principal Passport Officer has possession of any passport under paragraph (1)(g), the Principal Passport Officer must, unless the holder has been issued with a new passport, return the passport to the holder.

11 Cancellation of certificate of identity or travel document

- (1) The Principal Passport Officer may cancel any certificate of identity or travel document, and take and retain possession of it in any of the following cases, if:
 - (a) the Principal Passport Officer issues to the holder another certificate of identity or travel document in substitution for the first one; or
 - (b) the document has expired; or
 - (c) the document has been so damaged or defaced as to render it, in the opinion of the Principal Passport Officer unsuitable for use; or
 - (d) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that any particulars recorded in the document are incorrect; or
 - (e) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that the document has been obtained by means of any wilfully false or misleading statement; or

- (f) two or more certificates of identity or travel documents are in existence in respect of the holder and there is no longer any sufficient reason why that should continue to be the case; or
 - (g) a passport has been issued to the person; or
 - (h) in the case of a certificate of identity or travel document that was issued under subsection 8(1), the document was issued to the holder in the mistaken belief that the holder was, at the time of issue, a citizen; or
 - (i) in the case of a certificate of identity or travel document that was issued under subsection 8(2), the document was issued to the holder in the mistaken belief that the holder was, at the time of issue, stateless or a refugee; or
 - (j) in the case of a certificate of identity or travel document that was issued under subsection 8(1), the holder is no longer a citizen; or
 - (k) in the case of a certificate of identity or travel document that was issued under subsection 8(2), the holder is no longer stateless or a refugee; or
 - (l) the Principal Passport Officer reasonably believes that the holder:
 - (i) intends to engage in or has taken part in terrorist trainings; or
 - (ii) intends to facilitate or has facilitated a terrorist act within the meaning of section 3 of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Act No. 29 of 2005; or
 - (m) authorised to do so in emergency regulations made under Article 69 of the Constitution.
- (2) A person who has possession or control of a certificate of identity or travel document to which subsection (1) applies must, on demand by the Principal Passport Officer, surrender the document to the Principal Passport Officer.
- (3) If the Principal Passport Officer retains or cancels a certificate of identity or travel document under paragraphs (1)(b), (c), (d), or (e), the Principal Passport Officer may, on application by the holder of that document, issue another certificate of identity or travel document to replace that document.
- (4) Section 8 applies to any application made under subsection (3).

Division 4 - Power of the Court in relation to Vanuatu passport or travel document

12 Power of Court to order surrender of Vanuatu passport or travel document in criminal proceedings

- (1) A Court may order any person to surrender to the Court the Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document of any person who is granted bail, remanded in custody or sentenced to a term of imprisonment or a fine.
- (2) The Court must return the Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document to the holder or the person who has lawful custody of the Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document when the holder is no longer subject to criminal proceedings, has completed the term of imprisonment or has paid the fine, as the case may be.
- (3) A Court may make an order under subsection (1) on its own motion or on application by a Prosecutor.

13 Power of Court to order surrender of Vanuatu passport or travel document in civil proceedings

- (1) A Court may, on its own motion or on the application of any party to civil proceedings, order any person to surrender his or her Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document to the court as security for payment of a judgment debt (including an order for periodic payments).
- (2) A Court may not make an order under subsection (1) if the holder provides other adequate security.
- (3) The Court must return a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document delivered under subsection (1) when either adequate security has been provided or the Court is satisfied that security is no longer required.

PART 3 OFFENCES

14 False documents

A person commits an offence if he or she:

- (a) makes a false Vanuatu passport certificate of identity or travel document;
or
- (b) knowing a document to be a false Vanuatu passport certificate of identity or travel document, without reasonable excuse:
 - (i) uses, deals with, or acts upon it as if it were genuine; or
 - (ii) causes another person to use, deal with, or act upon it as if it were genuine; or
- (c) without reasonable excuse:
 - (i) has in his or her possession or under his or her control a document that he or she knows or has reason to suspect is a false Vanuatu passport certificate of identity or travel document; or
 - (ii) sells, hires, lends, gives, or otherwise disposes of a document that he or she knows or has reason to suspect is a false Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document; or
- (d) without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, makes or uses or has in his or her possession or disposes of any paper or other material that he or she knows is specially provided for any purpose relating to Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel documents.

15 Making false or misleading statements

A person commits an offence if:

- (a) the person makes a statement (whether orally, in writing or any other way) to another person that he or she knows to be false or misleading; and
- (b) the statement is made in, or in connection with, an application for a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document.

16 Improper use or possession of Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document

- (1) A person commits an offence if he or she:
 - (a) for purposes of travel and without reasonable excuse, uses a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document, that

he or she knows or has reasonable cause to suspect has expired or has been cancelled; or

- (b) for purposes of travel or identification and without reasonable excuse, uses a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document that he or she knows or has reasonable cause to suspect was issued to, or in respect of, another person; or
- (c) being a person to whom a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document has been issued, without reasonable excuse permits another person to have possession of that document in circumstances where he or she knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that the person intends to use it for purposes of travel or identification; or
- (d) without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, takes or retains in his or her possession or under his or her control a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document, against the will of the holder; or
- (e) without reasonable excuse, has in his or her possession or under his or her control within Vanuatu:
 - (i) a passport issued by or on behalf of the Government of any country other than Vanuatu, being a passport that he or she knows or has reason to suspect has been falsified or has been obtained by false representation; or
 - (ii) a document purporting to be a passport issued by or on behalf of the Government of any country other than Vanuatu that he or she knows or has reason to suspect is not such a passport.

17 Unauthorised alteration, destruction or sale of Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document

A person commits an offence if he or she intentionally and without lawful authority:

- (a) makes any alteration, addition, deletion or endorsement to a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document; or
- (b) destroys a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document; or
- (c) sells a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document.

18 Offences relating to document information and material

- (1) In this section:

travel document database means a file, register, or device in or on which information is or is to be recorded for the purposes of this Act.

- (2) A person commits an offence if he or she knowingly, and without lawful authority or reasonable excuse:
- (a) deletes, alters, or copies any information recorded in or on a travel document database; or
 - (b) allows any information recorded in or on a travel document database to be deleted, altered, or copied; or
 - (c) records any information (whether correct or incorrect) in or on a travel document database; or
 - (d) allows any information (whether correct or incorrect) to be recorded in or on a travel document database; or
 - (e) takes from where it is officially kept:
 - (i) a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document or a blank or incomplete Vanuatu passport, certificates of identity or travel document; or
 - (ii) a seal, stamp, or other authenticating device or thing, that is specially used for a purpose relating to Vanuatu passports, certificate of identity or travel documents; or
 - (iii) any paper or other material that is specially provided for a purpose relating to Vanuatu passports, certificates of identity or travel documents; or
 - (f) takes from where it is officially kept a file or register in or on which information is or is to be recorded for the purposes of this Act.
- (3) Paragraphs (2)(a) to (d):
- (a) apply to the deletion or alteration of information recorded in an electronic travel document database, or the recording of information in an electronic travel document database, whether it is achieved:
 - (i) directly; or

- (ii) by altering or damaging the database, its programming, another device, the programming of another device, or any electronic storage; and
- (b) apply to the copying of information recorded in an electronic travel document database whether it is achieved directly from the database, by means of another device, by the interception or copying of an electronic message, or from any form of electronic storage.

19 Improper issue of documents

A person commits an offence if he or she, without lawful authority or reasonable excuse, issues a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document (whether or not to the person to whom it relates) knowing that the person to whom it relates is not entitled to be issued it.

20 Failure to surrender document

A person commits an offence if he or she knowingly fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with a demand to surrender a Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document to the Principal passport officer in accordance with subsections 9(2), 10(2) or 11(2).

21 Penalties

A person who commits any offence specified in sections 14 to 20 is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to a fine not exceeding VT5,000,000 or both.

22 Jurisdiction in respect of actions taken outside Vanuatu

Proceedings may be brought for an offence under subsection 14(1), any of paragraphs 16(1)(a) to (d), section 17, subsection 18(2) or section 19, even if the act or omission alleged to constitute the offence did not occur in Vanuatu.

PART 4 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Division 1 - Review of decisions in relation to Vanuatu Passports

23 Review of decisions by Minister

(1) In this section:

reviewable decision means any decision of the Principal Passport Officer to:

- (a) refuse to issue a Vanuatu passport under section 4 or 5;
 - (b) cancel, and take and retain possession of, a Vanuatu passport under section 9 or 10;
 - (c) refuse to issue a certificate of identity or travel document under section 8;
 - (d) cancel, and take and retain possession of, a certificate of identity or travel document under section 11.
- (2) If a reviewable decision is made, a person affected by the decision may apply in writing to the Minister for a review of the decision.
- (3) An application for review must be made within 28 days after the person is notified of the decision (or such longer period as the Minister allows, whether before or after the end of the 28 days).
- (4) An application for review of a decision must set out the reasons for making the application.
- (5) Within 15 days of receiving an application for review of a decision, the Minister must consult the State Law Office and, taking into account any advice received from the State Law Office, must:
- (a) affirm the decision under review; or
 - (b) vary the decision under review; or
 - (c) set aside the decision under review and make a decision in substitution for it.
- (6) The Minister must:

- (a) record in writing any decision made under subsection (5), and the reasons for the decision; and
- (b) give a copy of the decision and the reasons to the applicant within 7 days of making the decision.

24 Appeal to Supreme Court

- (1) If an applicant for review under section 23 is dissatisfied with any decision of the Minister made under subsection 23(5), that person may appeal to the Supreme Court against that decision.
- (2) An appeal under this section must be made within 28 days after the date on which notice of the decision that is the subject of the appeal has been received by the person seeking to bring the appeal, or within such extended time as the Supreme Court allows.
- (3) On any appeal under this section, the Supreme Court may affirm, vary or set aside the decision that is the subject of the appeal, and may give all such directions (if any) to the Minister or any other person concerned as may be necessary to give effect to the Court's decision.
- (4) The decision made by the Supreme Court under this section is final.

Division 2 - Disclosure of Vanuatu Passport, certificate of identity or travel document information

25 Disclosure of Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document information

- (1) The Principal Passport officer may disclose Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document information to any Government agency or other organisation approved by the Minister, for any of the following purposes:
 - (a) aiding border security; or
 - (b) facilitating the processing of passengers; or
 - (c) law enforcement; or
 - (d) verifying the identity of the holder.
- (2) The Vanuatu passport, certificate of identity or travel document information that may be disclosed is as follows:
 - (a) the passport or document number; or
 - (b) the passport or document type; or

- (c) the date of issue of the passport or document; or
- (d) the date of expiry of the passport or document; or
- (e) the place of issue of the passport or document; or
- (f) the status of the passport or document (for instance, whether it is valid, or has been reported lost or stolen); or
- (g) the passport or document holder's surname, given name or names, and sex; or
- (h) the passport or document holder's nationality or citizenship; or
- (i) the passport or document holder's date of birth; or
- (j) the passport or document holder's place of birth; or
- (k) the passport or document holder's photograph; or
- (l) the passport or document holder's signature; or
- (m) the passport or document holder's eye colour and hair colour; or
- (n) the passport or document holder's height; or
- (o) any distinguishing physical feature of the document holder (for instance, any scar or mark).

26 Other Acts not affected

Nothing in this division prevents or limits any other disclosure of information that may otherwise be required or authorised by or under any law.

PART 5 MISCELLANEOUS

27 Passports and other travel documents are the property of the Republic of Vanuatu

- (1) All Vanuatu passports and travel documents, whether issued before or after the commencement of this Act, are the property of the Republic of Vanuatu.
- (2) The right in a Vanuatu passport or travel document conferred on the Republic of Vanuatu by subsection (1) is not defeated or affected by any security, pledge, deposit, or encumbrance given, made or accepted in respect of the Vanuatu passport or travel document by the holder or by any other person.
- (3) No holder or any other person must give, make, or accept as a security, pledge, or deposit, or otherwise encumber, a Vanuatu passport or travel document issued by or on behalf of the Republic of Vanuatu, and any term of an agreement which would otherwise have that effect is void.

28 Regulations

The Minister may by Order make regulations prescribing matters:

- (a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or
- (b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for carrying out or giving effect to this Act.

29 Penal Code Act not affected

Except as expressly provided in this Act, nothing in this Act is to be construed so as to limit or affect the operation of any provision of the Penal Code Act [CAP 135].

30 Transitional provision relating to endorsement of name of child on passport of parent or guardian

- (1) If, prior to the commencement of this Act, the name of a child under the age of 16 years was endorsed on the passport of a parent or guardian, that endorsement continues to have effect while the passport remains valid until either:
 - (a) the child attains the age of 16 years; or
 - (b) a separate passport is issued in the name of the child;

whichever occurs first, and the Principal Passport Officer must then cancel the endorsement.

- (2) For the purposes of the cancellation of any endorsement, the holder or other person who has the endorsed passport in his or her possession or under his or her control must, on demand by the Principal Passport Officer, deliver the passport to the Principal Passport Officer.

31 Repeals

The Passports Act [CAP 108] is repealed.

32 Savings

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the regulations made under the Passports Act [CAP 108] remain in force as if they were made under this Act.
- (2) At the commencement of this Act:
- (a) an application for a passport or other travel document made under the Passports Act [CAP 108] the processing of which had not been completed, is to be processed under this Act; and
 - (b) any valid passport or travel document issued under the Passports Act [CAP 108] continues in full force and effect as if issued under this Act until expiry, or until it is cancelled under this Act, and the provisions of this Act apply to it.

33 Commencement

This Act commences on the date on which it is published in the Gazette.