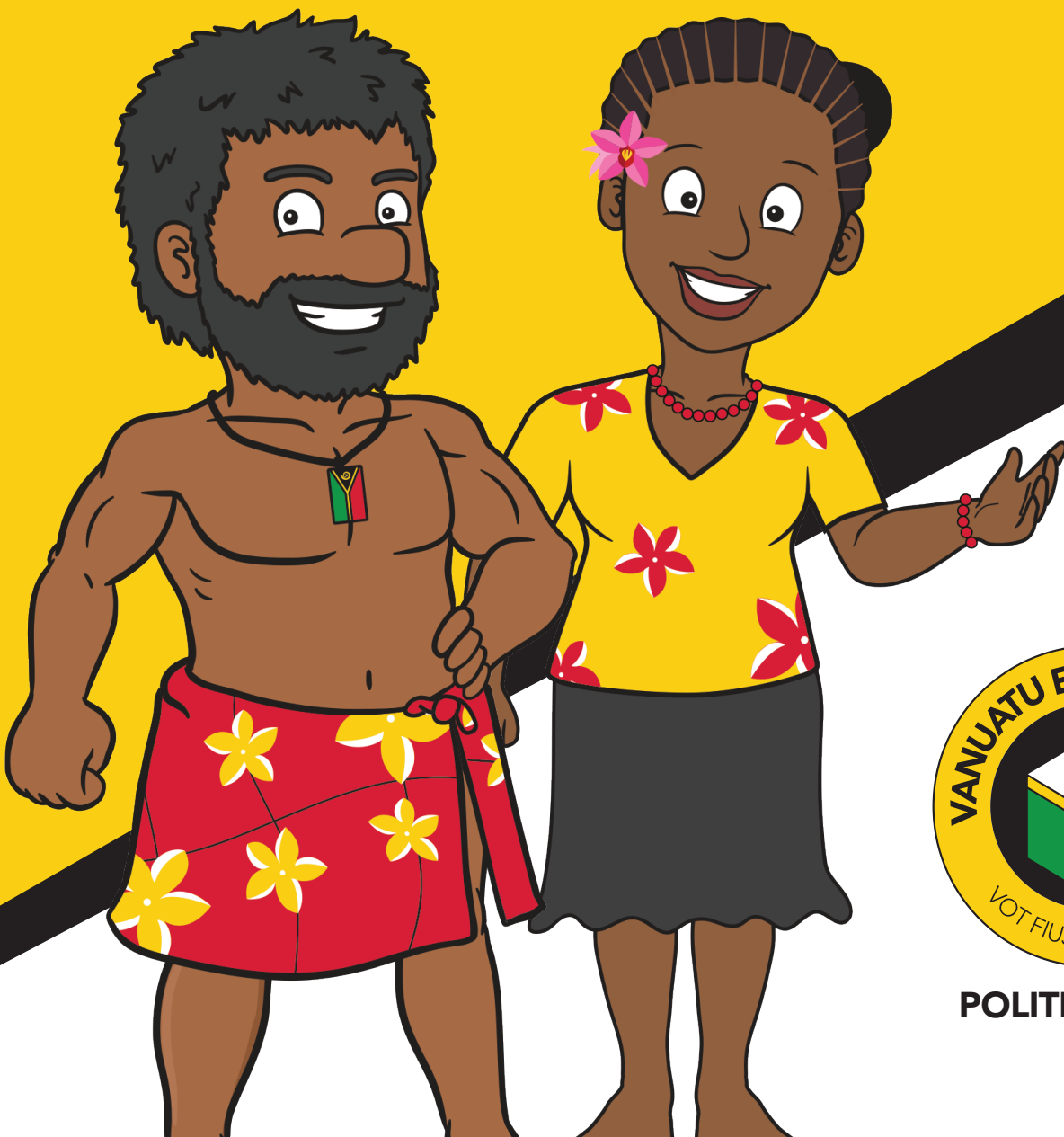


Registering a Political Party

Your Guide to the Process



POLITIKAL PATI

Introduction

The Political Party Registration Act No. 15 of 2023 makes it mandatory for all organisations or groups to register with the Vanuatu Electoral Office before they operate or function as a political party. For example, no group can field a candidate in any election unless it is registered as a political party.

The requirement to register applies to all groups including those that are already registered under the Charitable Associations (Incorporation) Act and newly formed political parties.

Discussed below are the requirements and the process for registering a political party. Submitting all the requirements and following the steps enumerated here will make the registration process fast and easy.



Requirements for Registration:

Together with the completed Application for Registration Form, all the following information and documents are required to be submitted to the Principal Electoral Officer (PEO), when registering a political party. Make sure you have all of them before submitting the Application for Registration Form.

1. Name & Logo:

Your party's name and logo must be unique and not easily confused with those of another political party. They must comply with the rules in the Registration of Political Parties Act.

2. Policy platform:

Your party must have a policy platform that clearly states its goals and priorities. It must be national in scope.

3. Constitution:

Your party must have a written constitution that outlines its objectives, structure, membership, and internal governance.

4. List of Office Bearers:

The party must provide the names and roles/positions of the office bearers of the proposed political party. The executive must comprise of at least six members and at least one member of the executive must be a woman.

5. Office Address:

Your party must have a registered office address. You must have a proof of lease or ownership.

6. Financial Disclosure:

You must provide information about the financial sources and expenditures of your party.

7. Declaration of No Criminal Records:

You must prepare a declaration that states that no founding member has a criminal record.

8. Minimum threshold of voters' support:

- If you participated in the last general elections, you must have a proof to show that your party received no less than 1,000 valid votes or as determined by the VEO.
- If you are a new political party, you must have the support of at least 500 voters through the country.

9. Code of Conduct:

You must adhere to the Code of Conduct for Political Parties. The Code outlines ethical principles and guidelines for political parties and include:

- Promoting democratic values and respect for the rule of law
- Ensuring transparency and accountability in their activities
- Avoiding discrimination and prejudice
- Respecting the rights of all citizens

10. Supporting Documentation:

You must prepare other relevant documents supporting the application, such as evidence of national presence, proof of identity of office bearers, etc.

11. Registration Fee of 150,000 Vatu/Payment Receipt:

You must be ready pay the non-refundable registration fee of 150,000 Vatu. When all of the requirements are above, pay the registration fee and keep the payment receipt.



Registration Process:

Once you have completed all these requirements, you can already start the process of registering your political party with the VEO. Here are the detailed steps that must be followed strictly:

1. **Submission of Application and Supporting Documents:**

You must submit a completed application form along with supporting documents mentioned above to the Principal Electoral Officer's office.

2. **Verification and Scrutiny:**

Your Application Form and supporting documents will be thoroughly scrutinized by the Screening Committee to ensure compliance with the requirements outlined above. It will not be accepted unless the Screening Committee determines that you have submitted all the required documents mentioned above.

3. **Public Notice and Objections:**

Once the application is deemed complete, a public notice will be published, inviting any objections to the registration of the party.

4. **Hearing:**

The Screening Committee shall review the Application Form and all the documents required to be submitted. If necessary, the Screening Committee shall conduct a hearing to:

- Seek clarification from the applicant regarding its application, including the documents submitted;
- Hear valid objections made by any person or group;
- Give the applicant an opportunity to respond to any objection to its application for registration;
- Conduct background checks on the founding members.
- Consult with relevant authorities, including the Ministry of Home Affairs, to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

5. **Decision:**

Based on the Application Form and documents submitted, as well as evidence presented during the hearing if one is conducted, a final decision on the registration of the political party will be made to the applicant.

6. **Notification of Decision:**

The Applicant will be notified of the decision of the Electoral Commission on its application. A Certificate of Registration will be issued and a unique registration number will be assigned to the Political Party. If the application of registration is denied, the reason for the denial will be stated in the Notification.

7. Inclusion in the Register Political Parties:

Once issued a Certificate of Registration, the political party will be included in the Register of Political Parties and can operate and function as such and participate or field candidates in any elections. It shall remain registered as a political party until it is deregistered.

Datelines for Registration:

- Applications for registration can be submitted throughout the year.
- The Screening Committee aims to complete the assessment process within 30 days from the date of application submission.

Registration Forms:

Official registration forms can be obtained from the Vanuatu Electoral Office at Independence Park, Port Vila, or on the Vanuatu Electoral Office website.

For More Information:

Contact the Vanuatu Electoral Office for further guidance on registering your political party.

Join us in shaping the future of politics! Let's work together towards positive change for our society





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Resilient nations.

