

Commencement Date

The Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu became effective on the date of the announcement of the Referendum results by the Electoral Commission on the 12th of September 2024.

Transitional Provision

17A has no transitional provision, therefore became effective on the 12th of September 2024

17B A three months provision was given to Independent MPs, Custom movement MPs and only MPs representing a political party in the parliament, if elected before the 12th of September 2024, must affiliate with a political party represented in the parliament within 3 months.

Application of the 8th Amendment

Does that mean that the changes will affect current MPs who have moved or resigned from their political parties before the 12th of September 2024

The changes will not affect MPs who resigned or moved from their political parties before 12th of September 2024, unless their political parties do not endorse their resignation. It also depends on the process of the termination of party members in their respective constitutions.

Political Party Regulations

- Registration form
- Rules Relating to Political Party Names and Logos
- A checklist to ensure Party Policy Platforms are of National Scope
- Deregistration (Notice) form

Guidelines for Developing Political Party Constitutions

The Constitution of Political Parties must provide for the following;

Members of the Executive

- Method of electing executive members
- Functions and powers of the executive
- Composition of the executive which must include the following;
 - i. At least six members
 - ii. Three mandatory positions, President, Treasurer and Secretary
- At least one member of the executive is a woman

Selection of Candidates for Elections

Spell out methods for selecting candidates for elections (how selection is done) to the parliament and to Municipal and Provincial elections.

Discipline of Political Party Members

Process and procedures for disciplining party members

Process and procedures for terminating the membership of party members

Ceasing to Support Grounds

Outline the grounds on which a member of a political party is deemed to have ceased to support his or her political party

Ceasing to Affiliate Grounds

Outline the grounds on which an independent member of the parliament or a custom movement member of parliament ceased to affiliate that political party.

Political Party Registration

Information about the 8th Constitutional Amendment



Registration of Political Parties

What constitutes a Political Party

A political party is not an independent or custom movement but an association of persons or organisation registered under the Act that field in candidates during elections in two or more constituencies in Vanuatu.

Why Political Parties need to Register

An organisation or persons cannot function or operate as a political party unless they are registered under the Political Party Registration Act, Number 15 of 2023.

A Political party wishing to field in candidates in an election under the Electoral Act, must be registered.

The independent and Custom Movement are not required to be registered in order to field candidates in elections.

Where to Register

The political parties are to be registered at the Vanuatu Electoral Office, at the Independence Park, Port Vila by the Principal Electoral Officer.

How to Register

The applications are to be submitted to the Screening Committee in a form approved by the Electoral Commission

The application should include the following;

- Name and logo of the political party (must meet requirements stated in the political party Regulations)
- Policy Platform of the party
- Copy of the party's constitution
- Receipt of the payment of the prescribed registration of 150,000 vatu.
- Provide proof of meeting the minimum threshold as specified in the Political party Registration Act.

Where to submit your application

The applications are to be submitted at the Vanuatu Electoral Office, Independence Park, in Port Vila

A Political party that is registered under this Act remains registered unless or until it is deregistered.

Deregistration of Political Party

Grounds to Deregister a Political Party

- The Political party failed to adhere to the rules relating to names and logos of the Political party
- The Political party failed to provide a policy platform that is of a national scope
- The Political party failed to provide party's constitution that satisfies all the requirements under the Political Party Registration Act
- The Political party requests to be deregistered
- The Political party was registered as a result of a mistake or fraud
- The Political party failed to meet the minimum threshold of voters' support at the preceding general election

Process for Deregistering a Political Party

- On the recommendation of the Principal Electoral Officer, the Commission provides 30 days a written notice to the secretary of political party of its intention to deregister the Political party
 - a. The notice must be in the prescribed form
 - b. Provides period which the Political party has to respond to the commission why it should not be deregistered and the necessary steps taken to comply with the Act

- If the Political party failed to comply at the expiry of the first notice, the electoral commission serves a second notice to the political party and provide it with a further 30 days in which the political party should take necessary steps to comply with the provisions of the Act as specified by the Electoral commission.
- If the Political party failed to comply with the second notice, the Electoral Commission will deregister the Political party
- The Principal Electoral Officer will ensure that the names of political parties that are deregistered are published as soon as practicable in the Official gazette.

Duty to Affiliate with Political Party once Deregistered

- Upon deregistration of a political party, its members (a MP, Municipal councillor, Provincial councillor) who are the members of that Political party must within six months
 - a. Affiliate with another existing Political party
 - b. Affiliate with a new Political party
- A Member of Parliament, a Municipal Councillor or a Provincial councillor who fails to affiliate with an existing Political party or a new Political party within the 6 months period is taken to be an independent member
- A Member of Parliament who becomes an independent member of parliament must comply with the requirement of sub article 17B (3) of the constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu, as he or she was newly elected as MP following a by-election.

