Bill No. 30 of 2025

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

(Published on 14th November, 2025)

MEMORANDUM

1. The object of the Bill is to amend the Citizenship Act (Cap. 01:01) to provide for —

a. multiple citizenship to persons who have more than one citizenship, as this will cater for persons who have more than two citizenships;

b. economic citizenship to any person who is interested in acquiring citizenship for purposes of economic investment in Botswana;

c. economic citizenship to a person who will uplift the economy through a joint venture or direct investment in a business that will create jobs or generate new export sales and boost the economy of the country.

2. The Bill therefore amends the Act —

a. by substituting for the words "dual citizen", the words "multiple citizen";

b. to provide for citizenship by investment by amending section 2 of the Act (clause 2) by defining the term "economic citizenship";

c. by inserting a new section 15A to the Act to confer economic citizenship on any person who wishes to acquire Botswana citizenship —

(i) for purposes of investing in Botswana, and

(ii) for purposes of boosting the economy of the country; and

d. by deleting under sections 16 and 18, the requirement for failure to renounce; and

e. by amending section 18 of the Act to provide for grounds for deprivation of economic citizenship.

MAJOR GENERAL (Rtd) PIUS MOKGWARE,
Minister of Labour and Home Affairs.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTION

1. Short title and commencement
2. General amendment of Cap. 01:01
3. Amendment of section 2 of the Act
4. Insertion of section 15A in the Act
5. Amendment of section 16 of the Act
6. Amendment of section 18 of the Act

A Bill

– entitled –

An Act to amend the Citizenship Act.

Date of Assent:
Date of Commencement:
ENACTED by the Parliament of Botswana

PART I — *Preliminary*

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2025, and shall come into operation on such a date as the Minister may, by Order published in the *Gazette*, appoint.

General amendment of Cap. 01:01

2. The Citizenship Act (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") is amended by substituting for the word "dual citizenship" wherever it appears in the Act, the word "multiple citizenship".

Amendment of section 2 of the Act

3. The Act is amended in section 2 by —

(*a*) inserting under the definition of "citizen" the following new paragraph —

"(*f*) any person who has acquired economic citizenship.";

(*b*) inserting in the correct alphabetical order, the following new definition —

""economic citizenship" means a person who is granted citizenship solely for purposes of economic investment;"; and

(*c*) substituting for the words "dual citizen", appearing therein, the words "multiple citizen".

Insertion of section 15A in the Act

4. The Act is amended by inserting immediately after section 15, the following new section —

"Economic citizenship

15A. (1) A person who wishes to acquire economic citizenship shall —

(*a*) apply to the Minister in writing or in such manner as may be prescribed by the Minister; and

(*b*) pay such a fee as may prescribed.

(2) A person whose application under subsection (1), is successful shall be granted economic citizenship solely for purposes of investment in the following sectors —

(*a*) manufacturing;
(*b*) mining and energy;
(*c*) agriculture;
(*d*) infrastructure;
(*e*) financial services;
(*f*) tourism;
(*g*) technology and digitilisation;
(*h*) sport and creatives;
(*i*) health;
(*j*) green economy or renewable energy; or
(*k*) any other sector as may be prescribed.

(3) A person who has committed a financial offence or was convicted of the financial offence in the last ten years, shall not qualify for economic citizenship.

(4) A person granted economic citizenship for economic investment shall not —

(*a*) register or vote in general elections or any elections under the Local Government Act; Cap. 40:01
(*b*) be employed in any public office;
(*c*) have access to free education in any school owned or funded by the Government;
(*d*) have access to financial services offered solely to other classes of citizens by any entity owned by the Government;
(*e*) be a member of any disciplined forces;
(*f*) be allocated state land or tribal land;
(*g*) have access to national security information, services, premises or installations; or
(*h*) hold any other office as may be prescribed by the Minister.

Minister.

(5) There is established a Special Fund known as the Economic Citizenship Fund which shall be established for purposes of depositing prescribed fees applicable under this Act.

(6) The Minister shall for the purposes of subsection (4), prescribe the procedure for the operation of the Economic Citizenship Fund.

(7) The term "financial offence" has the same meaning assigned to it under the Financial Intelligence Act".

Cap. 08:07

5. Section 16 (2) of the Act is amended by deleting paragraph (*a*), appearing therein.

Amendment of section 16 of the Act

Amendment of section 18 of the Act

6. Section 18 of the Act is amended —

(*a*) in subsection (1), by deleting paragraph (*a*), appearing therein;

(*b*) in subsection (4), by deleting paragraph (*b*), appearing therein; and

(*c*) by inserting immediately after subsection (6), the following new subsection —

"(7) The Minister may by Order deprive a person of economic citizenship, where the person —

(*a*) has committed a financial offence in or outside Botswana;

(*b*) is declared bankrupt or becomes insolvent;

(*c*) fails to fulfil his or her contractual obligation within the prescribed time; or

(*d*) has committed a serious crime in or outside Botswana.".