



**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (DUAL
CITIZENSHIP) BILL 2018**

(NO. 8 OF 2018)



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A

BILL

Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW FOR DUAL
CITIZENSHIP

ENACTED BY THE NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (DUAL CITIZENSHIP) BILL 2018

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CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (DUAL CITIZENSHIP) BILL 2018

1 Short title

This Act may be cited as the *Constitution (Amendment) (Dual Citizenship) Act 2018*.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day appointed by the Minister by notice in the *Gazette*.

3 Repeal of section 23

Section 23 of the Constitution is repealed.

4 Amendment of section 49

Section 49(1)(a) of the Constitution is amended by inserting the following after "state":

“, including by holding citizenship of a country other than Solomon Islands;”

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OBJECTS AND REASONS

The object of this Bill is remove the Constitutional prohibition on dual citizenship and to clarify that holding dual citizenship prevents a person from being a member of Parliament. This will facilitate the return and reintegration of Solomon Islander citizens by birth or ancestry who lost their citizenship by reason of marriage, forced labour or naturalisation in another nation. It will also allow naturalised Solomon Islands citizens to regain or retain their birth nationality. The policy to allow citizenship of more than one country is an exponentially growing trend in the 21st century. It provides social, economic, family, employment and study opportunities by providing ease of movement between country of origin and country of residence for eligible persons.

HON. RICK HOUENIPWELA
PRIME MINISTER

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (DUAL CITIZENSHIP) BILL 2018

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Section 1 provides for the short title of the Act.

Section 2 provides for the commencement of the Act. The Act commences on a date appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

Section 3 repeals section 23 of the Constitution. Section 23 prevents a Solomon Islands citizen from holding dual citizenship by specifying that a Solomon Islands citizen who is a national of another country ceases to be a Solomon Islands citizen unless he or she renounces nationality of the other country.

Section 4 amends section 49 to clarify that holding citizenship of a foreign country is an acknowledgement of allegiance to a foreign power, and is therefore a factor that disqualifies a person from membership of Parliament.

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