

ACT NO. 10 OF 2026

I assent.

RATU N. T. LALABALAVU
President

2 June 2026]

AN ACT**TO AMEND THE CITIZENSHIP OF FIJI ACT 2009**

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

- 1.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026.
- (2) This Act comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.
- (3) In this Act, the Citizenship of Fiji Act 2009 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 3 amended

- 2.** Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in the definition of “commencement date”, deleting “and”;
- (b) in the definition of “Permanent Secretary”, deleting “the Immigration Department.” and substituting “immigration; and”; and
- (c) inserting the following new definitions—
 - ““Banaban community” has the meaning given in section 2 of the Banaban Settlement Act 1970;”;

““Ministry” means the ministry responsible for immigration;”;

““permanent residence permit” means a permanent residence permit which entitles a person to reside and work in Fiji as prescribed by the Minister pursuant to section 9(4) of the Immigration Act 2003;”;

““special purpose permit” means a permit to enter Fiji for a special purpose as prescribed by the Minister pursuant to section 9(4) of the Immigration Act 2003.”.

Section 8 amended

3. Section 8 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5) after “18”, inserting “years”; and
- (b) deleting subsection (7) and substituting the following—

“(7) An application for citizenship by registration made by an adult who is or has been married to a citizen must be granted if the applicant complies with the conditions prescribed by subsections (8) and (9) and—

- (a) on and after the commencement of the Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026 but before 1 January 2030, has been lawfully present in Fiji for a total of 3 of the 5 years immediately before the application; or
- (b) on and after 1 January 2030, is the holder of a permanent residence permit and has been lawfully present in Fiji under a permanent residence permit for a total of 3 of the 5 years immediately before the application.”.

Section 10 amended

4. Section 10 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) deleting the heading and substituting “Grant of certificate of registration”;
- (b) in subsection (2) after “18”, inserting “years”; and
- (c) after subsection (2), inserting the following new subsection—

“(3) The Minister may refuse to grant a certificate of registration if the applicant fails to satisfy the Minister that the applicant is of good character.”.

Section 11 amended

5. Section 11 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting subsection (2) and inserting the following new subsections—

“(2) On and after the commencement of the Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026 but prior to 1 January 2035, a person may only qualify for the grant of a certificate of naturalisation under section 13, if the person—

- (a) has been lawfully present in Fiji for a total of 8 of the 10 years immediately before the application for naturalisation;

- (b) is of good character;
- (c) intends to continue to reside in Fiji; and
- (d) has adequate knowledge of the English language and of the responsibilities and privileges of Fijian citizenship in accordance with rules and guidelines which may be prescribed by regulations.

(3) On and after 1 January 2035, a person may only qualify for the grant of a certificate of naturalisation under section 13, if the person—

- (a) is the holder of a valid permanent residence permit;
- (b) has been lawfully present in Fiji for a total of 8 of the 10 years immediately before the application for naturalisation;
- (c) is of good character;
- (d) intends to continue to reside in Fiji; and
- (e) has adequate knowledge of the English language and of the responsibilities and privileges of Fijian citizenship in accordance with rules and guidelines which may be prescribed by regulations.

(4) For the avoidance of doubt, in calculating the period in subsection (3)(b), the Minister must—

- (a) not take into account any period in which the applicant was not a holder of a valid permanent residence permit; and
- (b) where the applicant has held more than one permanent residence permit, only take into account consecutive periods in which the applicant has held a permanent residence permit.”.

Section 12 amended

6. Section 12(2) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “An” and substituting “Subject to section 22(2), an”.

Part 8 deleted

7. The Principal Act is amended by deleting Part 8.

Section 22 amended

8. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 22 and substituting the following—

“Transition – Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026

22.—(1) At the commencement of the Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026, any application for citizenship by naturalisation, the processing of which had not been completed, is to be processed under this Act in force prior to the commencement of the Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) At the commencement of the Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2026 and for a period of 5 years after commencement, an application for naturalisation by a member of the Banaban community residing in Fiji is not subject to the prescribed fee.”.

Section 23 amended

9. Section 23(a) of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) deleting subparagraph (iii) and substituting the following—

“(iii) was present in Fiji pursuant to a visitor, study, research or training permit issued under the Immigration Act 2003;”; and

(b) after subparagraph (iv), inserting the following new subparagraphs—

“(v) was present in Fiji pursuant to a special purpose permit issued under the Immigration Act 2003; or

(vi) was present in Fiji pursuant to a co-extensive residence permit issued in relation to a student permit under the Immigration Act 2003.”.

Section 26 amended

10. Section 26 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “save that the power to make regulations under section 27 may only be delegated to the Director of Immigration”.

Repeal

11. The Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Act 2020 and Citizenship of Fiji (Revised Budget Amendment) Act 2022 are repealed.

Passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji this 28th day of May 2026.