



Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration

Hon Pio Tikoduadua

PARLIAMENTARY - WRITTEN QUESTION NO. 39/2023
Friday, 31 March 2023

QUESTION:

Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration -

- (a) How many applications were received by former Fiji citizens to obtain Fiji Passports pursuant to section 5 of the 2013 Constitution from the period January 2007 to December 2022?

RESPONSE

Registration of a Former Fiji Citizen means the registration of an adult who is a citizen of another country and was formerly a citizen of Fiji.

The Department of Immigration received a total of 3,825 applications and tabulated below is the summary of the total number of applications received per year of the reporting period, Jan 2007 to December 2002.

Table 1: Registration of Former Fiji Citizens Application_Received

FORMER FIJI CITIZENS APPLICATIONS RECEIVED, PERIOD JAN 2007 TO DECEMBER 2022	
[TOTAL: 3825]	
YEAR	NO.OF APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
2007	1
2008	7
2009	29
2010	288
2011	240
2012	238
2013	295
2014	285
2015	347
2016	386
2017	343
2018	366

2019	259
2020	259
2021	185
2022	297
TOTAL	3825

Source: Citizenship Section Records

- (b) How many Fiji Passport applications have been processed and issued to former Fiji citizens who made such applications under section 5 of the 2013 Constitution?

RESPONSE

The Department of Immigration recorded a total of 3,807 Former Fiji citizenship applications processed and approved. Total number of citizenship applications issued may not be the same as number of passport applications processed and issued to Former Fiji citizens, as some preferred to have only one passport while details of the other passport are updated in the system.

At this stage, the Department don't have records of former citizens with Fiji passports. We assume that most will apply for a Fiji passport once they retain their citizenship.

Citizenship modules is one of the inactive modules in the current IBMS system, so most part of the processes are carried out manually. Data on applications received can be generated, as it's the only process registered in the 'citizenship module' in the system.

Summary of the total number of citizenship applications approved for the period, Jan 2007 to December 2022 tabled below.

Table 2: Registration of Former Fiji Citizens Application_ Processed and Issued

FORMER FIJI CITIZENS PROCESSED AND ISSUED, PERIOD JAN 2007 TO DECEMBER 2022	
[TOTAL: 3807]	
YEAR	NO. OF APPLICATIONS APPROVED
2007	1
2008	7
2009	29
2010	288
2011	240
2012	238
2013	295

2014	285
2015	347
2016	386
2017	342
2018	366
2019	258
2020	258
2021	183
2022	284
TOTAL	3807

Source: Citizenship Section Records

- (c) Can the Ministry list the graduation of fees for the issuance of Fiji Passports to former Fiji citizens as per the prescriptions of section 5 of the 2013 Constitution;

RESPONSE

The passport application is lodged separately from the citizenship applications and is lodge after the decision of the citizenship application is made.

The Citizenship Act came into effect on 10 April 2009, hence the table below reflects fees from the same year.

Table 3: Former Fiji Citizen Application Fees

FEES FOR THE PASSPORT AND CITIZENSHIP APPLICATIONS			
YEAR	PASSPORT FEES	CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION FEES	REMARKS
2009	\$76.00	\$3,386.00	Effective fee
2016	\$74.00	\$3,209.00	Change due to VAT reductions from 15% to 9%
2019	\$200.00	\$3,209.00	ePassport

Source: Immigration Department Finance Records

- (d) What is the approximate time taken to process an application by a former Fiji citizen in order to obtain a Fiji Passport as provided for by section 5 of the 2013 Constitution; and

RESPONSE

Processing of citizenship application is 2 months however, processing period can be prolonged if requirements are not met at the time of lodgement. Common cause of delays are waiting for required documentary requirements, applicants not responding to given email or mobile contacts and delays of police clearance from country of residence.

- (e) How many Fiji citizens living in Fiji with a Fiji Passport also possess a second Passport to another country?

RESPONSE

Fiji citizens with dual citizenship finds it convenient and easy to travel to Fiji with their Fiji passport and they are normally cleared and processed at the border as Fiji citizens. Their details will be tagged in the system against the nationality of their foreign passport. The current systems cannot differentiate both records in the system, therefore, cannot extract the required data.