

Proposed Law Amendments to Grant 'Special Status' to Tanzanians in the Diaspora.

By Adv. Simon Patrick

In recent years, many Tanzanian diaspora have been urging the Tanzanian government to amend its laws to allow dual citizenship and grant Tanzanians abroad the same rights as nationals. These changes would enable them to participate fully in social and economic activities, ultimately contributing to the growth of Tanzania's economy.

Their call has now been heard. The Tanzanian government has tabled a new set of amendments designed to strengthen ties with Tanzanians abroad by introducing a 'special status' for citizens of other countries with Tanzanian roots. These proposed changes outlined in the Written Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) (No. 4) Bill 2024, were presented to the Parliament on 08th November 2024. The amendments primarily target the Immigration Act and the Land Act.

Key objectives of these proposed changes include enabling Tanzanians who have acquired citizenship in other countries to legally own property, including land, in Tanzania. These individuals would also have the right to transfer or bequeath such assets within the country.

The government is also aiming to simplify the entry process for Tanzanians in the diaspora. Those who hold foreign passports would be exempted from the meticulous visa procedures applied to other foreign nationals.

To facilitate this, the bill introduces the concept of a '*Diaspora Tanzanite Card*.' This card would be available to non-citizens of Tanzanian descent and would be valid for ten years with the option for renewal. The card would offer the right to enter, reside, and engage in various economic and social activities within Tanzania.

The bill also details the criteria for obtaining the 'special status,' the application process, and conditions under which this status may be revoked.

With these changes, the Tanzanian government aims to deepen its connection with its diaspora, recognizing the valuable contributions and potential that Tanzanians abroad may bring to their homeland.

SVTL Advisory with its team of immigration law experts, will continue monitoring the progress of this bill until it is passed into law. Once passed, we will be well positioned to advise our diaspora clients on applying for the "*Tanzanite Diaspora Card*" and to provide specific assistance throughout the application process.

For further inquiries, please feel free to contact us at info@svtl.co.ts.