

REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI



(No. 27 of 2022)



I assent,

Beretitenti

3/2/2023

AN ACT

entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CITIZENSHIP ACT 1979

Commencement date:

\_\_\_\_\_

MADE by the Maneaba ni Maungatabu and assented to by the Beretitenti

## **1. Short title**

This Act may be cited as the *Citizenship Amendment Act 2022*.

## **2. Meaning of Principal Act**

In this Act, the Principal Act is the *Citizenship Act 1979*.

## **3. Amendment of section 7**

- 1) Section 7(2)(a) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new subsection (a) before the existing subsection (a) and the rest of the subsections are renumbered accordingly, and it shall read as follows:

“(a) holds a valid permanent residence visa issued under the *Immigration Act 2019*; and”

- 2) Section 7(2)(b) as renumbered is amended by replacing ‘7 years’ with “10 years” and shall read as follows:

“(b) was, on the date of application, and has been during the period of 10 years immediately prior to that date, ordinarily resident in Kiribati; and”

### Explanatory Memorandum

The *Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2022* is necessary to strengthen the requirement to obtain a Kiribati citizenship by naturalization.

The amendment Act links the Citizenship Act 1979 (Cap 8A) with the *Kiribati Immigration Act 2019* by recognizing the permanent residence visa issued under the latter law. As clearly stated in the amendment, the permanent residence visa has become the first requirement to determine eligibility to apply for a citizenship by naturalization. The amendment also addresses the issue of a period of normal residency in Kiribati. Given that the current laws operate independently, the 3 years for a permanent residence visa and the 7 years for the citizenship must be reviewed and improved.

Citizenship comes with benefits, rights, and privileges, it should be earned by genuine and passionate aliens who wish to become part of our culture and identity as a country and must be supportive to the welfare and security of our people. 10 years of ordinarily resident is fair enough since the permanent residence visa requires 7 years as such.

**HE Taneti Maamau**  
BERETITENTI

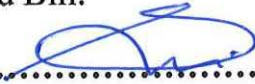
### LEGAL REPORT

I hereby certify that in my opinion none of the provisions of the above Act conflict with the Constitution and that His Excellency the Beretitenti may properly assent to the Act.

**Ms. Pauline Beiatu**  
Officer in Charge  
Office of the Attorney General

**CERTIFICATE OF THE CLERK OF THE MANEABA NI  
MAUNGATABU**

This printed impression of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2022 has been carefully examined by me with the Bill which passed by the Maneaba ni Maungatabu on the 6 December 2022 and is found by me to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

  
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**Eni Tekanene**  
**Clerk of the Maneaba ni Maungatabu**

Published by exhibition at the Maneaba ni Maungatabu this 3 day of

February 2023

  
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**Eni Tekanene**  
**Clerk of the Maneaba ni Maungatabu**