


<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COMMISSION ET BUREAU DE LA CITOYENNETE</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sac Postal Privé 9001 – Port – Vila Rue Pierre BRUNET</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CITIZENSHIP'S OFFICE AND COMMISSION</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>PMB 9001 – Pierre Brunet street Tel : 00678 26716 Fax: 00678 26719</i></p>
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***“SPEAK UP! BE HEARD! SAY what you’ve got to say and BE READY for what other people have to say.  
GET ENGAGED! Because this is your Country now!*”**

December 02, 2024

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Vanuatu Strengthens Citizenship Program With Enhanced Due Diligence and Investment Verification**

PORT VILA, VANUATU – The Vanuatu Citizenship Commission today announced its significant enhancements to its citizenship program, marking a new era in the nation’s commitment to international best practices and economic development.

These announcements come amid the disappointing and unexpected decision by the European Union to cancel visa-free access to the Schengen Zone for Vanuatu citizens. While this outcome is a setback, Vanuatu remains resolute in its commitment to strengthening its Citizenship by Investment program and ensuring its long-term credibility. The government continues to engage in dialogue with the EU to restore visa-free travel in the near future.

The Commission extends its sincere appreciation to the following institutions the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Interpol Police and Immigration Services for their exemplary work in strengthening the due diligence framework. “The enhanced verification processes implemented by these institutions have significantly elevated our screening standards. “While this may extend processing times, it ensures the integrity of our citizenship program to meet the highest international standards.”

The Capital Investment Immigration Plan (CIIP) has evolved into a robust economic contributor, featuring strengthened investment requirements that directly benefit Vanuatu’s primary sectors.

The program now maintains strict oversight of the mandatory USD 50,000 investment component, ensuring active contribution to the national economy. The Commission has implemented comprehensive verification procedures to monitor investment compliance, with clear consequences for non-compliance, with clear consequences for non-compliance including potential citizenship revocation.

In a significant technological advancement, the Department of Internal Affairs, under the leadership of the Honourable Minister Andrew Napuat (Care-taker Minister) and

Director of Immigration, Jeffrey Markson, has successfully introduced biometric passports, aligning Vanuatu's travel documents with international security standards. This upgrade will be further enhanced by the installation of biometric capturing systems across Vanuatu diplomatic offices worldwide by March 2025, streamlining the application process while maintaining rigorous security protocols.

"These improvements represent a coordinated effort across multiple government agencies to elevate Vanuatu's citizenship program to world-class standards," noted the Commission Secretary General. "The introduction of biometric systems, combined with enhanced due diligence and investment monitoring, demonstrates our commitment to program integrity and addressing global concerns."

The Commission is confident that these enhancements along with sustained efforts to strengthen governance and transparency, will pave the way for renewed dialogue with key international partners, including the European Union and the United Kingdom. Despite recent challenges, the government remains dedicated to rebuilding trust and fostering international cooperation to regain visa waiver agreement for Vanuatu citizens.

The Commission is particularly encouraged that these enhancements position Vanuatu favourably for renewed dialogue with the United Kingdom and European Union regarding visa waiver agreements. These improvements reflect Vanuatu's dedication to meeting and exceeding international security and verification standards.

"We are witnessing a transformation in Vanuatu's citizenship program." "The combination of strengthened due diligence, verified economic contribution, and technological advancement creates a robust foundation for international cooperation and trust."

The Commission will continue to communicate program developments and engage with international partners as these enhancements are fully implemented.

We further announce that the all Agents agreements will all lapse by January, 2025 and the government is considering in regulating a well manage and coordination of all programs.

For more information, please contact:



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