

Gov't Responds To Deportation Questions

By Glenda Willie

THE VANUATU PASSPORTS FOR the Chinese nationals who were deported last week, were cancelled prior to their deportation.

Director of Vanuatu Immigration Services (VIS), Jeffery Markson confirmed this during a press conference yesterday.

These six Chinese nationals, four of whom who are Vanuatu citizens, after obtaining the Vanuatu citizenship passport through the Development Support Program (DSP), were subjected to criminal investigations in China.

This was also confirmed by the Director of the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Floyd Mera, who stated that "in June 2019, the Chinese Law Enforcement Agency informed Vanuatu Authorities of their criminal investigation into the six Chinese nationals that commenced in March 2019".

They were detained and remanded in compliance with the Immigration Act.

Their record in China had warranted them to be deported from Vanuatu, which was ordered by the Minister of Internal Affairs, and executed by law enforcement agencies.

Since the Chinese nationals were deemed wanted persons in China, their removal was guaranteed under the 'removal without notice' order which warranted the law enforcement officers to execute instant deportation.



Member of the Taskforce
at the Press Conference

If they had received an order of removal under the 'removal with notice', they would have had the privilege to seek legal advice, and normal procedures would be followed leading to their removal from the country.

Director Markson also clarified that the nationals had in possession a dual passport.

"These people applied for our citizenship. We (Vanuatu) accepted and recognize dual citizenship."

He explained that there are cases where people who applied for dual citizenships tend to keep only the Vanuatu passport, while some of them continue to possess their passports of origin, which was the case for the Chinese nationals in question.

"If the Chinese concerned had had their Chinese citizenships cancelled, it

meant that we cannot cancel their Vanuatu citizenship, therefore, they would continue to remain a Vanuatu citizen."

This meant that the authorities would have to follow normal procedures in accordance to our law to deal with them.

However, the investigations undertaken by the Immigration has revealed that they continue have in possession their Chinese passports.

The Office of Immigration received intel and collaborated with the FIU and the Citizenship Office to verify information and wanted reassurance from the relevant authorities about the status of the Chinese nationals, whether they would have issues with them in the future.

"We found out that we do not have the resources to deal with the particular crime they

were involved in, if it were to have occurred in Vanuatu," the Director said.

"Following close contact with the Chinese Embassy, we then cancelled their Vanuatu citizenships."

The State Law representative confirmed such cases are subjected to Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act.

Director of Finance, Mrs. Dorothy Erickson confirmed in the last five years since the introduction and establishment of the citizenship programs, the revenue collected through this initiative continues to increase.

In 2018 alone, it raked in Vt9.8 billion in revenue, according to Mrs. Erickson. This, so far is confirmed to be the highest revenue collection out from the program.

Who Are the PlusToken Six?

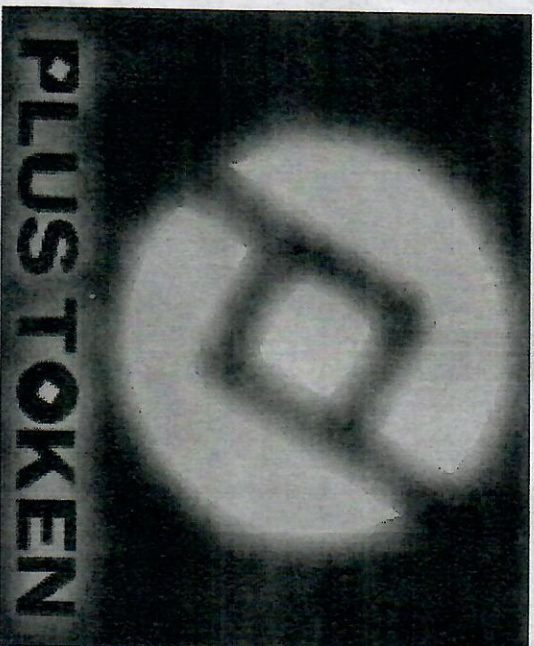
By Dan McGarry

THEIR NAMES ARE CHEN Bo, Yuan Yuan, Ding Zangqing, Peng Yixuan, Wang Renmi and Dong Jianhua. They are alleged to have operated a massive US \$2.9 billion Ponzi scheme involving a cryptocurrency called PlusToken.

They were arrested by Vanuatu Police and Immigration agents in a joint operation after their house on the wharf road was raided in the early hours of the morning.

Five unidentified Chinese law enforcement officials were present during the raid. They entered the premises afterward, to assist Vanuatu officials with identifying Chinese language documents and materials.

On the same day the raid occurred, cryptocurrency analysts reported a sudden



was possible to buy a chunk of crypto on one exchange, immediately sell it on another, and pocket a tidy profit. This used to be common in physical currency markets, and often caused havoc, until regulations were introduced to stabilise

to observe any arbitrage activity at all in the PlusToken wallets. So where were these massive profits coming from? Chinese police insist that PlusToken was a Ponzi scheme. New investors' money was being used to prop up returns

sales manager at a local auto dealership.

The applications were compiled and submitted, and passed to Vanuatu's Financial Intelligence Unit as part of the standard due diligence process. Now that Vanuatu is a full member of INTERPOL, the FIU can query their database directly. In addition to criminal record checks conducted in the country of origin, the FIU checks whether the applicant is wanted by police anywhere in the world, and whether they are insolvent.

In the case of the PlusToken Six, the query came up empty. There was in fact a Chinese criminal investigation under way at the time, the Daily Post was told. But because it was still secret, nothing showed up in the INTERPOL search.

The FIU repeats these

About a month later, Vanuatu authorities were notified by Chinese law enforcement that these six individuals were wanted for unspecified crimes. Official letters were sent by Chinese Police, asserting that the six had forged their criminal record check documents.

Sometime after that, the Department of Immigration ruled that their citizenship was therefore invalid, and their passports were invoked.

Section 14(2) of the Citizenship Act says "A person who is found by a court to have obtained citizenship by any false representation, fraud or concealment of a material fact on his part shall cease to be a citizen 30 days after such finding...."

The Daily Post has seen no evidence to suggest such finding was made by a court.

them. This includes the right to have legal counsel. At least one removal without notice was the subject of a stay order from the Supreme Court.

The Daily Post has seen no evidence that the PlusToken Six were allowed to speak to a lawyer before they were extradited.

The Government of Vanuatu insists that the six were deported, with assistance and cost-sharing from the government of China. Others have argued that this was in fact an extradition, because the individuals were not simply ejected. They were sent under arrest to face trial in another country.

No arrest warrants were supplied. Chinese authorities instead provided 'wanted' notices. Extraditions often occur

stop in online activity relating to PlusToken.

PlusToken is a cryptocurrency wallet created in April 2018. It paid its members to deposit their coins into its wallet, and it purported to make money for depositors using arbitrage.

Invest more than US \$500 worth of cryptocurrency, the promoters said, and you can participate in the 'smart dog' feature. This leverages your investment for use in digital currency arbitrage. It's a complex term, but the concept is simple enough:

Crypto prices are constantly changing, and demand is higher in some markets than in others. China's is particularly hot. People learned that it

them.

The first players in this arbitrage game made a lot of money. Some people were doing this daily, even hourly, and making obscene sums.

Before long though, people got wind of the opportunity, and entire bot-farms (server rooms chock-a-block with dedicated computers) did nothing but blockchain arbitrage around the clock. Profit margins fell away as price differences disappeared.

But the people operating PlusToken were still offering juicy returns, allegedly promising profits of 10-30% every month. And yet according to Chinese media sources, analysts were unable

being used to prop up returns for earlier ones. People were encouraged to form investor communities, and rewarded for bringing others into the mix.

In March this year, the entire house of cards began to fall apart, industry sources allege. Chinese language media tell of mixed messages from the cryptocurrency operators, about the need to ensure orderly withdrawals and computer error to explain people's inability to withdraw their tokens.

Just weeks before, at least four of the PlusToken Six had applied for Vanuatu Citizenship. The forms were processed by Horizon Consultant, a licensed DSP agency operated by Job Andy. Mr Andy was formerly a

THE FID repeats these INTERPOL searches annually for everyone who obtains citizenship through one of Vanuatu's investment programmes. At least one person wanted by Chinese police was found out this way.

This person is the subject of an ongoing Police investigation. No other details may be released at this time.

The Daily Post understands that greater efforts to follow due process are being made in this case.

In mid-May this year, four of the PlusToken Six were approved for citizenship. Contrary to statements made by the Prime Minister's Office, two other applications were still pending.

judging was made by a court, or that the 30-day period was honoured. Presumably, the purpose of that 30-day period is at least partly to allow the person in question to challenge the court's finding.

The Minister of Internal Affairs is empowered to remove non-citizens without notice if they are wanted for crimes committed in another country. He has the power to detain them in prison or in custody until such time as the removal happens. There is no specific time limit applied to the period of detention.

But as a matter of natural justice, all persons are entitled to understand the law, and to be informed of any proceedings or decisions made against

EXTRADITIONS often occur between countries that have signed a bilateral extradition treaty. But a treaty is not necessary for extradition to occur. Some countries will not extradite a person for something that is not a crime in that country. Most countries require that the person to be extradited will get a fair trial. Some require assurances that penalties will not be imposed that would be illegal there.

Countries have refused to extradite people to the USA, for example, until they were promised that the person would not face the death penalty.

Amnesty International reports that China executes more people each year than all other nations put together.

WEATHER ICONS & MEANING

Sunny	Fog	Showers/Thunder
Mostly Sunny	Light Showers	Heavy Rain
Mostly Cloudy	Light Rain	Storm
Cloudy	Light Rain	Down Draft

PROVINCE	WEATHER	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	Temp.
TORBA		South-East	10kt	29C
SANMA		South-East	10kt	29C
PENAMA		South-East	10kt	29C
MALAMPA		South-East	10kt	28C
SHEBA		South-East	10kt	27C
TAVEA		South-East	10kt	29C

PROVINCE	WEATHER	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	SEA STATE
TORBA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
SANMA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
PENAMA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
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SHEBA		South-East	10kt	27C
TAVEA		South-East	10kt	26C

PROVINCE	WEATHER	WIND DIR	WIND SPEED	SEA STATE
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PENAMA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
MALAMPA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
SHEBA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m
TAVEA		South-East	15kt	Moderate seas to 1.5m

SUNRISE/SUNSET TIMES

TIDES FOR PORT VILA & LUGANVILLE

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT(m)	TIME	HEIGHT(m)
06:17AM	17:28PM	1.38	0.20	1.24
06:17AM	17:28PM	1.38	0.20	1.24