

DÉPARTAMENT DE L'IMMIGRATION

Services de L'Immigration et de Passeport de Vanuatu
Autoroute Kumul, Tamarama Building
Tél: (678) 22 354 / (+678) 33125
Email: visqueries@vanuatu.gov.vu
Web: www.immigration.gov.vu
P.O.Box 9092, Port-Vila, Vanuatu



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29th January 2020

To Stakeholders of the Citizenship Program.

RE: INSTRUCTION ON THE PASSPORT DELIVERY – CORONA VIRUS EPIDEMIC.

The Management of Vanuatu Immigration Services (VIS) has been closely monitoring the nature of the spreading and health risk caused by the Corona Virus epidemic through the local/international media and we are also in close consultation with the Ministry of health, and the Vanuatu China embassy based in Beijing.

The Corona virus is originated from China and can be transmitted through close conduct from one person to another and it is a very serious epidemic virus that is causing a lot of death to human.

Vanuatu Immigration and Passport Services appreciate the importance of the program in terms of the revenue collection but it is equally important to ensure that our officers are safe and our country is safe from the virus as regular traveling in and out of the country is a risk to bringing in the Virus to Vanuatu.

Considering the risk from the Virus and the revenue collection from the program, Vanuatu Immigration Services and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are issuing the following instructions:

- 1. Officer are ban from traveling to all Asian countries for the delivery of the passport.**
- 2. Passports can only be delivered to the following countries, Australia, New Zealand, Dubai and Fiji. Offices will have to sign a PSC Liability disclaimer form before traveling to the approved countries.**
- 3. VIS management has look into the option of video conference delivery but we realise that the option, possess high risk to the integrity of our passport issuing system, which we have been protecting to enhance the value of the Vanuatu passport book. Therefore, the option of Video Conference for the delivery will not be approved.**

The instruction above will cease once the Ministry of Health has given the clearance for normal business in Asia.

Jeffrey Markson
Director

Vanuatu Immigration Services

