## COMMISSION ET BUREAU DE LA CITOYENNETE

Sac Postal Privé 9004 - Port - Vila Rac Pierre BRI NET



## CITIZENSHIP'S OFFICE AND COMMISSION

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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!

## **PRESS STATEMNET**

The Commission has been advised during the past twenty-four hours of the activities of an investment migration firm in the Middle East who has been marketing our DSP Citizenship Program in a manner that is not of the professional level and standards that we expect and require of our representatives internationally.

Upon learning of this situation, the Commission immediately launched an urgent investigation to establish the facts and take appropriate action.

The marketing materials are in the form of various social media posts and videos which have now been shared widely here in Vanuatu. Although the actions and activities of this firm are not unlawful in themselves, they have rightly attracted criticism and condemnation from within our community for the way in which they portray our DSP Citizens and the Vanuatu Passport.

In this instance the Commission has discovered that the migration firm involved is not officially registered and authorized by the Citizenship Commission to promote the Vanuatu Program internationally. The Commission has immediately instructed its team to contact the migration firm and demand the removal of all posts related to the promotion of Vanuatu Citizenship. This demand has been duly complied with.

It is of vital importance that we retain our Citizenship Program for the benefit of Vanuatu, and since the appointment of the current chairman of the Citizenship Commission, those Commission has made it its priority to ensure that Program operational standards are raised, with better management and control. Isolated instances such as this distasteful representation of the Program reinforce the need for decisive action, and in the near future the Commission will be implementing new measures to address these requirements.

The Commission wishes to remind our Ni-Vanuatu community that the vast majority of individuals who take Vanuatu Citizenship through investment are valuable net contributors to our country and indeed, have sustained us through the terrible economic hardships of the past twelve months.

order to maintain and preserve the Citizenship Program for the future good of our country, the ammission wish to provide assurance that the Commission will be asserting ever more rigorous control of vetting over the Program, the Agents who represent it, and the applicants who seek Vanuatu tizenship.

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ited at Port Vila this 11th Day of January 2021

