



Press Release: Immigration Denial of Entry and Ongoing Investigations into Alleged Illegal Scheme

Port Vila, Vanuatu | 20 January 2026 | The Ministry of Internal Affairs wishes to reassure the public that appropriate border control and law enforcement measures are in place following the denial of entry of **French national Mr. Jerome Marcelin** at Port Vila International Airport on **Sunday, 18 January 2026**, at approximately **4:00pm**.

Following standard border control procedures, Mr. Marcelin was escorted to the departure area and returned on the same Fiji Airways flight.

The denial of entry was carried out in accordance with Vanuatu's Immigration laws and border security protocols, based on information available to authorities at the time of arrival.

Authorities are currently reviewing information linking Mr. Marcelin to an entity known as "Api La Savate," which is under investigation for possible non-compliance with Vanuatu's business and financial regulations.

The Ministry wishes to clearly state that the Office of the Prime Minister has confirmed it has no knowledge of Mr. Marcelin, nor any scheduled meeting with him. At the time of the incident, the Prime Minister was not in the country, making such claims false.

Relevant agencies, including the Vanuatu Police Force, Immigration Services, and the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC), are working together to:

- Assess the legality of the scheme's operations;
- Verify registration and compliance requirements;
- Ensure the protection of the public and financial integrity.

The Ministry urges the public to:

- Avoid all unverified investment or financial schemes;
- Immediately disengage from entities that are not registered;
- Report suspicious activities to authorities.

The Ministry assures the public that investigations are ongoing and that government agencies are actively managing the situation in accordance with the law.