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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Department of Vanuatu Immigration & Passport Services Strengthens Border Enforcement Through Deportation Operations**

*Port Vila, Vanuatu – 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026* | The Department of Vanuatu Immigration & Passport Services (VIS), under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, continues to strengthen national border security and immigration enforcement through ongoing deportation operations targeting foreign nationals with criminal backgrounds and individuals found abusing visa conditions.

This week, Border Officers from the Department successfully identified and deported a Chinese national who entered Vanuatu despite having criminal records. The operation was made possible through the Border Management System (BMS), which has significantly improved the Department's ability to monitor, verify, and detect high-risk individuals entering the country.



The Border Management System plays a critical role in strengthening Vanuatu's border security by enabling officers to access immigration records, verify traveller information, detect suspicious movements, and respond quickly to potential threats. The system enhances the Department's capacity to protect national security while ensuring only genuine visitors and lawful travellers enter the country.

The Department has also raised concerns regarding the increasing abuse of Tourist Visas. While Vanuatu continues to welcome visitors and investors, Immigration authorities have observed that some foreign nationals are entering the country under a Tourist Visa and later engaging in activities that are not permitted under the visa conditions.



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Tourist Visas are intended strictly for tourism, holidays, family visits, and short-term stays. They do not permit individuals to conduct employment, business operations, or other unauthorized activities while in the country.

The Ministry, through the Department of Vanuatu Immigration & Passport Services, is urging all foreign nationals intending to travel to Vanuatu to ensure they enter the country with a clean record, comply fully with immigration laws, and come with genuine intentions.

Director of Vanuatu Immigration & Passport Services stated:

*“Vanuatu is not a hiding place for individuals with criminal backgrounds or people seeking to abuse our immigration system. Through our Border Management System and the dedication of our Border Officers, we will identify those who violate our laws and deport them immediately.”*

The Department further confirmed that more deportation operations will be conducted in the coming weeks as part of ongoing border compliance and enforcement activities.

Foreign nationals who attempt to misuse visa categories or enter the country under false intentions are reminded that Border Officers are now better equipped, trained, and supported by modern systems to detect immigration breaches and take immediate action.

The Department of Vanuatu Immigration & Passport Services remains committed to protecting the integrity of Vanuatu's borders, safeguarding national security, and ensuring immigration laws are respected by all persons entering the country.