



PRESS RELEASE

DEPORTATION OF SEASONAL WORKER – A REMINDER TO COMPLY WITH VISA CONDITIONS AND GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU'S CALL

PORT VILA, VANUATU, 22nd May 2025 | The Ministry of Internal Affairs confirms the recent deportation of a seasonal worker who failed to comply with the conditions of their visa. This is not the first case; there have been previous instances where seasonal workers were deported for failing to adhere to the terms and conditions of their visas.

This case serves as a clear reminder that the Government, through Ministry of Internal Affairs and its agencies and in collaboration with our partners, continues to take immigration compliance seriously. It also demonstrates that law enforcement officers are working diligently to ensure that all those who travel under seasonal work schemes abide by the laws of their host countries.



As the Minister responsible, **Hon. Andrew Napuat** takes this opportunity to remind all seasonal workers that the Government has consistently urged everyone to come forward and arrange their return home before their visa expires. Previous Minister of Internal Affairs have also made the similar calls and it is important that our citizen comply to their calls

Deportations of this nature have painted a negative picture not only on the individuals involved but also on other ni-Vanuatu participating in the same seasonal work programs. This appeal was made to ensure that all workers maintain their good standing and preserve the integrity of the seasonal work programs that continue to provide vital employment opportunities for many ni-Vanuatu.

Unfortunately, this deportation is a direct result of failing to follow that guidance and reminders made previously.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs reiterates that overstaying visas, breaching work contracts, or absconding/disengaging from employment arrangements may lead to deportation, financial penalties, and future bans from participating in overseas work opportunities. These actions not only impact the individuals involved, but also put the entire program at risk for other workers and communities who rely on these opportunities for the benefit of their families.

The Government remains committed to protecting the seasonal work schemes and will continue to encourage all participants to comply with the terms of their overseas engagement. At the same time, the Government is aware of the challenges faced by ni-Vanuatu workers and is actively engaging with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand to address these issues collaboratively and constructively.

Workers currently overseas or those with concerns are encouraged to reach out to their Country Liaison Officers or the Department of Labour and Employment Services for assistance.