



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU



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PRESS RELEASE

VFIPA FDI ONLINE REGISTRATION LAUNCHED

The Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Agency (VFIPA) launched its online FDI Registry (<https://registry.investvanuatu.vu/register>) on 19th October, 2023. This is a major milestone achieved by the Agency through commitment, hard work and a strong teamwork by staff and their Board of Directors – an initiative strongly commended by Mr. Jimmy Rantes, Director General for the Ministry of Trade & Commerce (MTC) and Chairman of the VFIPA Board of Directors (BOD).

Mr. Raymond Vuti, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of VFIPA, described this event as a significant milestone for the agency, expressing their excitement for this achievement. It's an online registration tool that will allow investors to register applications online, make payments online, and provide VFIPA staff with convenient online processing capabilities. A stronger collaboration between institutions that are involved in facilitating FDIs and requesting them to appreciate what VFIPA has achieved, emphasizing that all should shift to digital platforms with their customer service deliveries.

Given that global uncertainty is damaging investors confidence and slowing down or delaying Foreign direct Investment (FDI), it is so encouraging to note that with this tool in place, potential investors do not have to physically come to Vanuatu to register their investment applications. They can still have their applications registered wherever they are.

Through this online registry tool, foreign investors in Vanuatu and abroad can file and pay for their new, variations and annual survey applications online using payments options like credit card and bank transfer and allows the VFIPA staff to assess applications online including real-time communication with users of the system. Prior to this processing of all applications was done manually which as result the processing time was quite lengthy. Although the target was 15 working days, in most cases it took longer.

Good news is the processing time of foreign investment certificate registration will now be faster, transparent and cheaper. Investors are expected to receive their registration certificates within 3-5 working days, once an application is submitted and payment is made, the investor can track the status of the application in the system until the certificate is ready.

Improving business environment and promote economic opportunities has been and remains a priority focus for the Government. VFIPA as the gateway to foreign investments in Vanuatu is pleased to note that successful implementation of this online system will contribute to improving Vanuatu's ranking in the ease of doing business and making it more competitive.

VFIPA serves as the primary gateway for foreign investors, offering the necessary services for starting a business in Vanuatu. Vital information on government procedures and processes while facilitating connections with senior government officials and local businesses will continue to be paramount.