



**Republic of Vanuatu  
State Law Office**

5<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Financial Intelligence Unit**

UNIT 12-14, Top Floor, Port Vila Mall,  
Rue Pierre Lamy, Port Vila

Private Mail Bag 9048  
Port Vila

Telephone (678) 22362  
Mobile (678) 7330250  
Website [www.fiu.gov.vu](http://www.fiu.gov.vu)  
Email [vfiu@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:vfiu@vanuatu.gov.vu)

**PRESS STATEMENT**

**“Six Chinese Face Deportation”**

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019, the Daily Post featured a news article pertaining to the above headline concerning six Chinese nationals and which was commented on in the social media.

I wish to provide some clarification on the due diligence process involved in the Vanuatu Citizenship Program and hopefully highlight the transparency and integrity of the process.

As provided for under the Citizenship Regulation Order No. 33 of 2019, the Financial Intelligence Unit (‘FIU’) is required to assist the Citizenship Screening Committee with final due diligence checks on potential applicants.

Prior to this, DSP/VCP Agents conduct the front-line due diligence by understanding the background of the applicants and the source of funds. This includes reviewing police clearance for any past criminal convictions.

DSP/VCP Agent-approved applications including valid passport, police or judicial clearance, curriculum vitae (CV) and any such other requested document are then submitted to the FIU where the due diligence process must be completed within 48 hours and a written finding delivered to the Citizenship Screening Committee.

Although the Citizenship Regulation only requires FIU to check for criminal conviction, FIU utilises several globally reputable screening servers in its due diligence process where these servers not only access the Interpol database or past criminal conviction records but also global blacklisting, sanctions, financial disqualification, corporate solvency, terrorism, individual bankruptcy and political-affluent persons.

To ensure that our Citizenship Program remains globally competitive, great reliance is placed on the screening servers however; FIU understands that the servers may not be foolproof. In mitigating this factor, FIU has employed an effective on-going monitoring of all successful applicants in the Program. This includes annual internal re-screening of citizens and promptly sharing its findings with Citizenship Commission, Vanuatu Immigration Services and other relevant authorities.

In response to the Chinese nationals, FIU received their applications with supporting documents in late February 2019. Our due diligence process concluded with no adverse record found against their respective names.

However, in June 2019, the Chinese Law Enforcement Agency informed Vanuatu Authorities of their criminal investigation into the 6 Chinese nationals that commenced in March 2019.

As such, our due diligence process conducted in February 2019 could not identify the criminal investigation as the investigation only commenced in March 2019 or the investigation was, at that time, covert.

FIU has responded to the request and promptly notified the Vanuatu Citizenship Program.

For more information, please contact the FIU office on the above contact details.



Floyd Ray Mera  
**Director FIU**

