Press Release No. 1 of 2017



13 January 2017

## Financial Intelligence Unit

1st Floor, Hong Kong & New Zealand House Rue Mercet, Port Vila

Private Mail Bag 9048 Port Vila

Telephone Mobile Website Email

(678) 22362 (678) 5720719/7330250 ww.fiu.gov.vu vfiu@vanuatu.gov.vu

## <u>PRESS STATEMENT</u>

## UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON TERRORISM

Following the public statement issued by the APG Secretariat and the FATF against Vanuatu one of the important deficiencies identified was; *Inadequate measures to implement United Nations resolutions for targeted financial sanctions against terrorists*.

In ensuring that Vanuatu's economy and financial systems (including creation, operation or management of legal persons) are not abused by terrorist financiers and sympathisers, Vanuatu has amended certain legislations to ensure that its financial system is robust in detecting and reporting identified terrorist groupings or any persons affiliated through any assets or properties held in their names or their associates' names.

Businesses registered with the FIU as a 'reporting entity' are required to regularly verify their entity's existing business relationship with their customers as it is a legal requirement that their entity must ensure that their customer establishing a business relationship with their entity, engaging their entity's service/product or opening account with their entity, must be checked and verified against the regularly updated United National Security Council Resolutions on Terrorism and Terrorist Financing.

Further, reporting entities and members of the public, pursuant to section 8 of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organised Crime Act [CAP 313] are required to immediately inform the Attorney General or the FIU of any suspicions or findings they may have that a particular property is a terrorist property or a person is a known terrorist or an associate of a known terrorist or terrorist group.

Terrorist property means property that has been, is being or is likely to be used to commit a terrorist act, used or own by a terrorist or terrorist group.

Persons must not deal, collect, acquire possess, facilitate, convert or conceal the terrorist property but must report the matter to the Attorney General or the FIU

**IMPORTANT NOTE** This letter may be received only by the named addressee and anyone authorised by the named addressee. It is confidential and contains material which is the subject of legal professional privilege and/or public interest privilege. Unauthorised retention, publication or other use of this letter may lead to civil or criminal liability. If you have received this letter in error the State Law Office requests that you immediately contact us to make arrangements for its recovery.

Should you at any given time have suspicions or doubts about a particular property or person you are advised to not continue any further and seek further clarification and guidance from the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

The United Nations Security Council Resolution on Terrorism List can be accessed via www.fiu.gov.vu/publications

**Director FIU**