



Republic of Vanuatu

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Financial Intelligence Unit

Unit 12-14, Top Floor, Vila Mall Building, Rue
Pierre Lamy, Rue Mercet, Port Vila

P.O. Box 22
Port Vila

PRESS STATEMENT

Telephone (678) 23616
Mobile (678) 7330250/5050605
Website www.fiu.gov.vu
Email vfii@vanuatu.gov.vu

GUPTA BROTHERS NOW VANUATU CITIZENS

This press release is to clarify the Financial Intelligence Unit's (FIU) position on the above subject matter as raised by the South Africa Times online service shared on the social media.

The South Africa Times article articulated the new citizenship of the Gupta brothers and the wanted notices issued against them by the South African authorities. It implied that their new citizenship was new development to the criminal investigation team.

The Gupta brothers and their respective families did apply for Vanuatu citizenship under the Development Support Program in February 2018. This office identified adverse information against the brothers and informed the Citizenship Office accordingly on 14th and 27th February 2018.

On or around 5th July 2018, a fresh application for the same clients was received and this office issued the same response to the Citizenship Office.

After numerous meetings and correspondences on this matter, on or around 2nd April 2019, this office issued another letter to the Citizenship Office maintaining its position of adverse information identified against the Gupta brothers. Stating clearly that the brothers were subject to criminal investigations in South Africa, the onus was placed on the discretionary authority of the Citizenship Office and the Citizenship Screening Committee.

Thereafter, the FIU was unaware of the Gupta brothers' citizenship application status nor received a request for a fresh review of their applications. None-the-less, our formal position remains unchanged.

Floyd Ray MERA
Director FIU



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