

## DOING BUSINESS IN VANUATU



Foreign Investment Approval Certificate

Business Name Reservation and Company Incorporation

Residency Permit

Work Permit

**Business License** 

Value Added Tax Registration

National Provident Fund Registration

|   | REQUIREMENT / PROCEDURE  | TIME TO<br>COMPLETE      | ASSOCIATED<br>COST  | REQUIREMENT / PROCEDURE   | TIME TO<br>COMPLETE | ASSOCIATED<br>COST   |
|---|--|--------------------------|---|---|---------------------|--|
|   | OBTAIN A FOREIGN INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE (FIAC) *   |                          |   | GET A BUSINESS LICENSE**  |                     |  |
| 0 | Complete an application form available at the VIPA for a new investment project. Approval of your FIAC qualifies you as a foreign investor to do business in Vanuatu.  | 15 Days                  | 120,000 VT  | Business Licenses (BL) are processed by the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue for business operating in urban areas.  Complete the prescribed application forms at the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue and Provincial Councils ensuring all | 1 - 2 Days          | Minimum – 20,000<br>VT per business<br>category earning <<br>10 million VT per |
|   | The Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority (VIPA) receives, appraises and approves all FIACs.  |                          |   | the prescribed information requirements have been properly completed and the legal requirements fulfilled.  |                     | annum.   |
|   | COMPANY INCORPORATION *  |                          | Based on authorized   | REGISTER FOR VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)  |                     |  |
| 3 | The Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) is responsible for processing company incorporation and business names in Vanuatu.  | 3 - 5 Days<br>1 - 2 Days | share capital.  Minimum -30,000  VT (authorized                                     | Complete the prescribed application forms at the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue ensuring all the prescribed information requirements have been properly completed and the legal   | 2 - 3 Days          | No fee   |
|   | Complete the prescribed application forms available at the VFSC ensuring all the prescribed information requirements have been properly completed and the legal requirements fulfilled.                      |                          | share capital of VT<br>35 million or less) –<br>Maximum - 250,000<br>VT (authorized | requirements fulfilled.  Any business whose taxable turnover for the month and the last 11 months (or for the month and the next 11 months) exceeds (or is  |                     |  |
|   | Investors operating as a sole proprietorship or partnership only require registering the business name.  |                          | share capital of VT 300 million)  | expected to exceed) 4 million vatu is required under the Act to pay VAT.  |                     |  |
|   | A copy of a business name reservation is a requirement for a FIAC.   |                          |   | All VAT applications are processed by the Department of Customs and Inland Revenue.   |                     |  |
|   | GET A RESIDENCY PERMIT   |                          |   |   |                     |  |
|   | By default all foreign investors are entitled to two residence permits.  | 5 Days                   | 57,600 VT per year per adult.   | REGISTER WITH THE VANUATU NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND (VNPF)  |                     |  |
|   | Complete the prescribed application forms available at the Department of Immigration ensuring all the prescribed information requirements have been properly completed and the legal requirements fulfilled. |                          |   | The Act requires employers (corporate body or a person) to register with the Fund if they employ one or more people at a wage greater than or equal to 3,000 Vatu per month.  | 3 - 4 Days          | No fee   |
|   | Residency permits are processed by the Vanuatu Department of Immigration.  |                          |   | Complete the prescribed application forms at the VNPF ensuring all the prescribed information requirements have been properly completed and the legal requirements fulfilled.   |                     |  |
| 4 | GET A WORK PERMIT  |                          |   | Employers are required to apply for registration within 7 days of commencing business.  |                     |  |
|   | Complete the prescribed application forms ensuring all the prescribed information requirements have been properly completed and the legal requirements fulfilled.  | 5 Days                   | 210,000 VT per year   | All VNPF registration applications are processed by the Vanuatu National Provident Fund Members Services Department.  |                     |  |
|   | By default all foreign investors are entitled to two work permits.   |                          |   | NOTE: * Takes place simultaneously with another procedure  ** Provinces issue business licenses to business activities in   | their jurisdiction  | ons  |
|   | Work permits are processed by the Vanuatu Department of Labour.  |                          |   |   | ,                   |  |

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# CONTACTS

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#### VANUATU FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

- T +678 22247
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#### DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE

- T +678 24096 / 24441
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- W www.dcir.com.vu



#### **DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION**

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- W no website available



### DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

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#### VANUATU NATIONAL PROVIDENT FUND

- T +678 23808
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