



PRESS RELEASE

CRYPTO & DIGITAL ASSETS TRADING

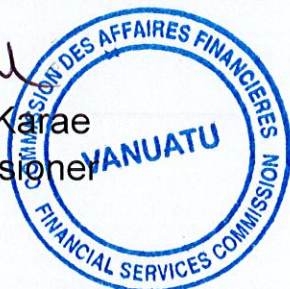
The Vanuatu Financial Service Commission, (VFSC), the integrated regulator for non-banking financial services and Fintech related activities including digital assets such as cryptocurrencies, NFTs and DeFi, wishes to inform the public that trading in digital assets (including cryptocurrencies, NFTs and DeFi) requires a class D license under the Financial Dealers Licensing Act [CAP 70], issued by the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC). Trading without a license is prohibited and punishable by law.

The public is encouraged to report any entity or person trading in digital assets without proper licensing and is also encouraged to ensure that they deal with persons or entities holding class D license issued by the VFSC.

The Guidance notes on Digital Assets issued by the VFSC in October 2021, does not allow issuance of tokens or coins. False advertising that mislead or deceived potential consumers is also illegal under the law, and people associated with any NFT schemes who are operating without a license including their agents in Vanuatu will be investigated and appropriate actions will be taken against them.

VFSC will be issuing further guidance to the public to provide clarity on NFTs and DeFi in the coming days and a more robust legal framework will be enacted later this year to protect investments in Digital Assets.


Branani Karae
Commissioner
VFSC



28 January 2022