VANUATU FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Port Vila
Companies House
Rue Bouganville
PMB 9023, Port Vila,
Vanuatu

Luganville
Millenium Building
PMB 9005, Luganville
Santo, Vanuatu

Penama
c/o Vanuatu Post
Saratamata,
East Ambae, Vanuatu

Malampa
c/o Malampa Provincial
Government Council
PO Box 22, Lakatoro
Malekula, Vanuatu

Tafea
c/o Tafea Provincial
Government Council
PO Box 28, Lenakel
Tanna, Vanuatu

PUBLIC NOTICE

FINANCIAL DEALERS LICENSING (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 32 OF 2026

This is a general advisory to all entities and individuals licensed under the Financial Dealers Licensing Act [CAP 70] as amended, Registered Agents and the General Public.

The Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) wishes to inform all Financial Dealers Licence holders, Registered Agents and the General Public that the Financial Dealers Licensing (Amendment) Act No. 32 of 2026 was assented to and commenced on 12 November 2026 following its publication in the Official Gazette.

The amendment introduces a number of important changes to the regulatory framework governing licensed financial dealers in Vanuatu. One of the significant changes is the removal of section 1 (definition), section 2(4), (5) & (6), and section 3(1)(b) of the Financial Dealers Licensing (Amendments) Act No. 32 of 2026 which provides power to the minister to exempt a licensee from the licensing requirements. The definition of "exempted dealer" has been repealed together with related provisions and references throughout the Act.

The Amendment Act also introduces the fees payable for application to change key a person, the UBO, or the shareholder. A fee of VT300,000 is now payable for an application to change a beneficial owner, while a fee of VT150,000 applies for a change to a key person, including a compliance officer, chief financial officer or chief technology officer.

In further strengthening compliance obligations, a new section 8A has been inserted requiring every licensee to maintain and keep up-to-date institutional risk assessments to identify, assess and mitigate risks associated with money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. Licensees are also required to maintain adequate records and information for the duration of their licence and for a minimum period of seven years after the licence has been terminated. Such records may be maintained in written form, electronically or in any other format capable of being reproduced.

The Amendment Act further introduces additional reporting and record-keeping obligations. The amended Act also introduces civil penalties for late filing of statutory returns such as audited financial statements, quarterly report or any other required documents to be filed at the VFSC. A penalty fee of VT 2000 per day of delay will be imposed for late filing documents. VFSC will provide further guidance on the implementation of this provision.

Licensees are also required to submit their insurance certificate to the Commissioner within 30 days after the expiry date. Failure to comply with this requirement will attract a penalty of VT2,000 per day of delay until the filling date.

In addition, a new quarterly financial reporting obligation has been introduced. Every licensee must submit a quarterly financial report to the Commissioner, and any late filing will be subject to a penalty of VT2,000 per day of delay until the filing date.

The VFSC encourages all licensees to review their compliance policies, procedures and internal controls to ensure that they are aligned with the new legislative requirements. Particular attention should be given to institutional risk assessments, record retention policies and ongoing reporting obligations to avoid enforcement action and financial penalties under the amended Act.

Any person requiring clarification on the implementation of the Amendment Act may contact Mr Joshua Tari on tjoshua@vfsc.vu or called the VFSC on telephone 22247.

DATED 16th day of November 2026.

COMMISSION DES AFFAIRES FINANCIERES VANUATU FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

Branan Karae
Commissioner