

# **REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

## **BILL FOR THE TREATY BETWEEN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU CONCERNING THEIR MARITIME BOUNDARIES (RATIFICATION) ACT NO.      OF 2016**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The purpose of this Bill is to ratify the Treaty between the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu concerning their Maritime boundaries to strengthen the tie between the countries in the spirit of Melanesia as well as to respect the international norms. The Treaty is also officially known as the “Motalava Treaty”.

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu and the Government of Solomon Islands have been negotiating their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) overlaps since 1983. After 33 years, in 2015, the two states have finally agreed to the treaty line.

This Treaty was accomplished in accordance with our international obligation under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and in the Melanesian spirit of reinforcing cultural and historical linkages and identity between the peoples of the northern group of Vanuatu and the southern group of Solomon Islands.

**Prime Minister**



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An Act to provide for the ratification of the Treaty between the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu concerning their Maritime Boundaries.

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

### **1 Ratification**

The Treaty between the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu concerning their Maritime Boundaries is ratified.

A copy of the Treaty is attached.

### **2 Commencement**

This Act comes into force on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.