REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

CONSOLIDATION OF THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH TEXTS OF THE LAWS OF VANUATU ACT [CAP 295]

Approval of the English Text of the Public Holidays Consolidation Edition 2025 Order No. 152 of 2025

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by subsection 9(1) of the Consolidation of the French and English Texts of the Laws of Vanuatu Act [CAP 295], I, the Honourable JOB SAM ANDY, Minister of Youth, Justice and Community Services, make the following Order:

1 Approval of the English Text of the Public Holidays Consolidation Edition 2025

The English Text of the Public Holidays Consolidation Edition 2025 is approved.

2 Appointed day

The appointed day for the coming into operation of the Public Holidays Consolidation Edition 2025 is the day on which this Order is made.

3 Commencement

This Order commences on the day on which it is made.

Made at Port Vila this 23 **day of** July **, 2025.**

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU Ministry of Justice & Community Service MINISTER Ministère de la Justice et des services du Communauté REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

Honourable JOB SAM ANDY
Minister of Youth, Justice and Community Services

Commencement: 30 July 1980

CHAPTER 114

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

JR 19 of 980
Act 15 of 1984
Act 15 of 1985
Act 17 of 1993
Act 50 of 2005
Act 17 of 2014
Act 35 of 2017
Act 2 of 2021
Act 9 of 2025

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

1. Public holidays
2. President may declare other public holidays
3. *(Repealed)*
4. No compulsory payments on public holidays
5. Compulsory closing of stores by order
6. Penalty for keeping open store
7. Exemptions
8. Regulations

SCHEDULE

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

To provide for public holidays.

1. Public holidays
The days stated in the Schedule shall be public holidays.

2. President may declare other public holidays
(1) Subject to subsection (2), the President acting on the advice of the Prime Minister may from time to time declare other days as public holidays.

(2) Provincial days must not be declared as public holidays.

3. (*Repealed*)

4. No compulsory payments on public holidays
No person shall be compelled to make any payment or do any act upon any public holiday which he would not be compellable to make or do upon a Sunday and the making of such payment and the doing of such act on the day following such public holiday shall be equivalent to payment of the money or performance of the act on such holiday.

5. Compulsory closing of stores by order
The President may by Order from time to time direct that all stores, shops and other places of business throughout Vanuatu or in any one or more of such places as may be stated in the Order shall be and remain closed upon any public holiday.

6. Penalty for keeping open store
When an Order is made under section 5 it shall be unlawful for any person to keep open any store, shop or other place of business other than a hotel in any of the places named in such order or to sell or cause to be sold in any such store, shop or other place of business any goods or articles whatsoever. Any person who contravenes the provisions of this section shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding VT 5,000 and in default of payment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 1 month.

7. Exemptions
Section 6 shall not apply to –

(a) the sale of any drugs or medicines;

(b) the sale of bread, butter, fresh milk, fresh meat, fresh fish and ice not later than noon;

(c) the sale of refreshments in any places where refreshments are habitually sold for consumption on the premises;

(d) any other businesses as may be prescribed.

8. Regulations
The President may, on the advice of the Prime Minister, make Regulations:

(a) required or permitted by this Act to be prescribed; or

(b) necessary or convenient to be prescribed for the better carrying out or giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

SCHEDULE

(Section 1)

New Year's Day

Lini Day (21 February)

Custom Chief's Day (5 March)

Good Friday

Easter Monday

Labour Day (1 May)

Ascension Day

Children's National Day (24 July)

Independence Day

Assumption Day

Constitution Day (5 October)

National Unity Day (29 November)

Christmas Day

Family Day

Table of Amendments (since the Revised Edition 1988)

2	*Amended by Act 9 of 2025*
2(2)	*Inserted by Act 9 of 2025*
3	*Repealed by Act 9 of 2025*
7(d)	*Inserted by Act 2 of 2021*
8	*Inserted by Act 2 of 2021*
Schedule	*Amended by Acts 17 of 1993, 50 of 2005, 17 of 2014, 35 of 2017*