REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

IMMIGRATION ACT NO. 17 OF 2010

Immigration Visa Regulation (Amendment) Order No. 86 of 2024

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by paragraph 37(g), sections 44 and 91 of the Immigration Act No. 17 of 2010, I, the Honourable JOHNNY KOANAPO RASOU, Minister of Internal Affairs, make the following Order.

1 Amendments

The Immigration Visa Regulation Order No. 180 of 2011 is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

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

Made at Port Vila this 17 **day of** June **, 2024.**

Honourable JOHNNY KOANAPO RASOU
Minister of Internal Affairs

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTRE DE AFFAIRES INTÉRIEURES
REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF THE IMMIGRATION VISA REGULATION ORDER NO.180 OF 2011

1 Paragraph 7(1)(c)

Delete ".", substitute "; and

(d) the applicant is attending conference; and

(e) the applicant is attending a workshop; and

(f) the applicant is attending a training; and

(g) the applicant is bringing a new registered aircraft or vessel to Vanuatu."

2 Paragraphs 12L(a), (b), (c) and (d)

Repeal the paragraphs, substitute

"(a) the applicant provides a copy of the Vanuatu Financial Services Certificate; and

(b) the applicant provides a copy of the Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Authority Certificate; and

(c) the applicant provides a copy of the business licence; and

(d) the applicant provides proof of the assets in country of value more than VT20,000,000."

3 Paragraph 12K(a)

Delete "Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority", substitute "Vanuatu Foreign Investment Promotion Authority"

4 Paragraph 12M(a)

After "visa", insert "or a current holder of residency visa"

5 Paragraph 12M(a)

After "investor visa", insert "or a current holder of residency visa"

6 Paragraph 12M(d)

Repeal the paragraph, substitute

"(d) the applicant has provided a proof of assets in the country with value of more than VT50,000,000; and"

7 At the end of clause 12N

Add

"(e) the applicant brings a Vanuatu registered aircraft or vessel for maintenance."

8 Paragraph 12O(a)

Delete "more than 5 months", substitute "not more than 12 months"

9 Paragraph 12O(b)

After "Labour", insert "under the Labour (Work Permits) Act [CAP 187]"

10 Clause 12P

Delete "Residential leasehold owner visa" (wherever occurring), substitute "Leasehold owner visa"

11 Paragraphs 12P(a),(b), (c)

Repeal the paragraphs, substitute

"(a) the applicant has leasehold ownership of a property in Vanuatu, certified by a bank operating in Vanuatu, chartered accounting operating in Vanuatu or a registered Value of leasehold property of VT10,000,000; and

(b) the applicant provides copy of leasehold ownership."

12 Clause 12S

Repeal the Clause, substitute

"12S. Criteria for the grant of a Bridging visa

In addition to the criteria outlined under paragraphs 37(a), (b), (c), (d) (e) and (f) and for the purposes of paragraph 37(g) of the Act, the Director must be satisfied that any of the following criteria has been met before granting a Bridging visa:

(a) the applicant is in the Country and has applied for a substantive visa and the Director is satisfied that it is appropriate to grant a bridging visa so that the applicant has lawful status in Vanuatu which the substantive visa application is processed; or

(b) the applicant is in the Country and his or her previous visa has been expired but requires a bridging visa to prepare documents for Vanuatu National Provident Fund and Immigration Bond for departing."

13 Sup-paragraph 12V(a)(ii)

Repeal the sub-paragraph, substitute

"(ii) a non-citizen who is residing in Vanuatu as the holder of a valid visa; and"

14 Sup-paragraph 12W(a)(iii)

After the sub-paragraph, Insert

"(iv) work as a student on attachment; or"

15 Clause 12Z

Delete the Clause, substitute

"12Z Specialist Skills visa

In addition to the criteria outlined under paragraphs 37(a), (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) and for the purposes of paragraph 37(g) of the Act, the Director must be satisfied that the following criteria has been met before granting a Specialist Skills visa:

(a) The applicant must be a subject of an acceptable sponsorship from an employer to undertake specialist skills work in Vanuatu not more than two weeks.

(b) The applicant must provide:

(i) a copy of Terms of reference; and
(ii) a letter from the request company for a business registered in Vanuatu; and
(iii) a copy of Valid Passport; and
(iv) a copy of Return Ticket to country of origin."

16 Paragraphs 17B(a), (b), (c)

Delete the paragraphs.

17 Paragraphs 17F(a) and (b)

Repeal the paragraphs, substitute

"(a) the applicant must be outside of Vanuatu at the time of his or her application; and

(b) the location of the applicant at the time of grant is outside of Vanuatu; and"

18 Paragraph 17H(d)

Repeal the paragraph, substitute

"(d) the Director is to grant Direct investor visa for 8 years; and"

19 After paragraph 17S(d),

Insert

"(e) the international students who are in Vanuatu will continue with the attachment without engaging in any employment outside their attachment activities."

20 Clause 17V

Repeal the Clause, substitute

"17V Specialist Skills visa

In addition to the general conditions of granting a visa under paragraphs 44(a), (b), (c) and (d) and for the purposes of paragraph 44(e) of the Act, Specialist Skills visa issued under this Regulation are subject to the conditions set out below:

(a) The applicant must be outside of Vanuatu at the time of his or her application; and

(b) the location of grant must be outside of Vanuatu; and

(c) The period of stays is from one to two weeks; and

(d) Allow the change of status."

21 Schedule 1, Table 2, After Column D Charge (in Vatu)

Insert

"

Column E (charge in Vatu)3% included in Fees

"

22 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 22, Provisional Investor visa-Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"51,500"

23 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 22, Provisional Investor visa-Column C Circumstance

Delete "Shareholder"

24 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 22, Provisional Investor visa-Column D Charge (in Vatu)

Delete "300,000"

25 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 23, Business Investor visa-Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"206,000"

26 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 24, Direct Investor visa-Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"309,000"

27 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 25, Permanent Investor visa-Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"3,090,000"

28 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 26, Short term employment visa- Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"51,500 of less than 1 month, 103,000 if less than 5 months"

29 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 27, Employment visa-Column C Circumstance

Delete "150,000", substitute "250,000"

30 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 27, Employment visa- Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"257,000"

31 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 28, Leasehold Holder visa- Column C Circumstance

Delete "100,000", substitute "57,600"

32 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 28, Leasehold Holder visa- Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"59,330"

33 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 31, Bridging visa-Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"15,450"

34 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 32, Religious visa-Column D Charge (in Vatu)

Delete "20,000", substitute "10,000"

35 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 32, Religious visa-Column D Charge (in Vatu)

Delete "40,000", substitute "20,000"

36 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 32, Religious visa-Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"10,300

20,600"

37 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 33, Development support visa, Column C Circumstances

Add

"Approval letter from the Director of Foreign Affairs for the exemption of fees"

38 Schedule 1, Table 2 -Item 33, Development support visa- Column D, Charge (in Vatu)

Delete "50,000", substitute "10,000"

39 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 33, Development support visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"10,300

15,450 for family of four and children under 18 years are exempted

Exempted"

41 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 34, Close family visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"61,800

5,150"

42 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 35, Social exchange visa, Column C Circumstances

Delete Column C, Circumstances, substitute

"(a) The applicant under sub-paragraphs 12W(a), (i) and (ii) are exempt.

(b) The applicant under subparagraph 12W(a) (iii), who makes profit out of the activity then will be charge.

(c) The applicant under paragraph (b) will be exempt if the activity creates no profit.

(d) Any Sponsored Media activities will pay a fee of 100,000VT.

(e) The students on attachments are exempt."

43 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 35, Social exchange visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"Exempt

61,800

Exempt

103,000

Exempt"

44 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 36, Retiree visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"309,000"

45 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 37, Diplomatic visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"Exempt"

46 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 38, Student visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"5,150

15,450"

47 Schedule 1, Table 2- Item 39, Ni-Vanuatu descent visa, Column E Charge (in Vatu)3% included in Fees

Insert

"20,600"