

REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

BILL FOR THE VANUATU INTERACTIVE GAMING (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2026

Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Vanuatu Interactive Gaming Act [CAP 261] (“the Act”).

Vanuatu’s laws generally reflect FATF standards by criminalising money laundering and terrorist financing and providing for financial reporting, beneficial ownership, asset confiscation and international cooperation. However, gaps remain and full compliance has not yet been achieved. This Bill is required to address those gaps and ensure that Vanuatu fully complies with the FATF standards.

The key features of this Bill are to:

- (a) provide for an initial interactive gaming licence of 2 years and, subject to satisfactory compliance, a further licence of up to 10 years; and
- (b) require licensees to maintain genuine business operations in Vanuatu and comply with licensing, reporting, record-keeping, anti-money laundering and other legal requirements; and
- (c) require the Regulator to assess compliance before granting a further licence and to give written reasons for any refusal.

These amendments are necessary to:

- (a) establish a clear process for granting and renewing interactive gaming licences; and
- (b) allow the Regulator to assess a licensee’s operations and compliance during the initial licence period; and
- (c) strengthen the regulation and oversight of interactive gaming activities in Vanuatu.

Minister of Finance and Economic Management



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An Act to amend the Vanuatu Interactive Gaming Act [CAP 261].

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Amendment

The Vanuatu Interactive Gaming Act is amended as set out in the Schedule.

2 Commencement

This Act commences on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.

SCHEDULE

AMENDMENTS OF VANUATU INTERACTIVE GAMING ACT [CAP 261]

1 After section 5

Insert

“5A Granting of Licence

- (1) The Regulator may, after considering an application under section 4 and any further information or documents provided by the applicant, grant the applicant a licence to conduct interactive games in Vanuatu if the Regulator is satisfied that the applicant meets the requirements of this Act.
- (2) A licence granted under subsection (1) must:
 - (a) be in writing; and
 - (b) be issued for a period of 2 years from the date on which the licence is granted; and
 - (c) specify the conditions to which the licence is subject; and
 - (d) be subject to this Act and the regulations.
- (3) During the period of a licence granted under subsection (1), the licensee must:
 - (a) commence and maintain genuine business operations in Vanuatu in accordance with the licence; and
 - (b) comply with all applicable licensing requirements under this Act and any other law; and
 - (c) comply with the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014 and any regulations or orders made under that Act; and
 - (d) comply with all reporting, record-keeping and disclosure requirements imposed under this Act, the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014 and any other applicable law; and

- (e) ensure that the licensee and each key person of the licensee remain fit and proper persons to hold or be associated with a licence; and
 - (f) comply with any conditions imposed by the Regulator.
- (4) Before the expiry of a licence granted under subsection (1), the Regulator must assess the licensee's compliance with this Act and any other Act.
- (5) If the Regulator is satisfied that:
 - (a) the licensee has commenced and maintained genuine business operations during the period of the licence; and
 - (b) the licensee has complied with all licensing requirements applicable to the conduct of interactive games; and
 - (c) the licensee has complied with the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014; and
 - (d) the licensee has complied with all reporting, record-keeping and disclosure requirements applicable to the licensee; and
 - (e) the licensee and each key person of the licensee remain fit and proper persons to hold or be associated with a licence; and
 - (f) the licensee has complied with the conditions of the licence;the Regulator may, on application by the licensee, issue a further licence for a period not exceeding 10 years.
- (6) In determining the period of a licence to be issued under subsection (5), the Regulator must have regard to:
 - (a) the nature and scale of the licensee's business operations; and
 - (b) the licensee's compliance history; and
 - (c) the effectiveness of the licensee's systems and controls for preventing money laundering, terrorist financing, fraud and other unlawful activities; and
 - (d) any other matter that the Regulator considers relevant.

- (7) The Regulator must not issue a licence under subsection (5) if the Regulator is not satisfied that the requirements of subsection (5) have been met.
- (8) If the Regulator refuses to issue a further licence under subsection (5), the Regulator must give the licensee written notice of the decision and the reasons for the decision.

2 Subsection 8(2)

Delete “15 years”, substitute “10 years”.

3 Section 40

Repeal the section.