

# REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

## BILL FOR THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER-TERRORISM FINANCING ACT NO. OF 2026

### Explanatory Note

This Bill amends the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014 (“the Act”).

The Financial Intelligence Unit (“the FIU”) serves as the central national agency tasked with the receipt, analysis, and dissemination of information concerning suspicious financial transactions. It is a core function of the FIU to collect data on potentially illicit flows of capital, and it plays a pivotal role in the global architecture designed to detect and prevent money laundering, the financing of terrorism, and other predicate financial crimes.

The FIU is currently established as a Unit under the Office of the Attorney General. This amendment will establish the FIU under the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (“the RBV”) to ensure seamless coordination between prudential regulations and AML/CTF monitoring, consolidating oversight functions and avoiding fragmented supervision.

Furthermore, the RBV is treated as a reporting entity under the Act, creating a dual role that blurs the distinction between regulator and a regulated entity. This overlap results in duplication and operational inefficiencies. In particular, it requires RBV to submit Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) despite not engaging in customer-facing transactions, while simultaneously supervising financial institutions that are already obligated to submit such reports. Therefore, removing the RBV as a reporting entity under the Act would formally clarify and reinforce its primary role as a supervisory authority. This would eliminate the existing overlaps, enhance regulatory coherence and realign with the objectives of the National Sustainable Development Plan by promoting good governance, institutional efficiency, and a more effective regulatory framework.

**Prime Minister**



**REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**

**BILL FOR THE  
ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER-  
TERRORISM FINANCING (AMENDMENT)  
ACT NO. OF 2026**

**Arrangement of Sections**

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# REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

## **BILL FOR THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER- TERRORISM FINANCING (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. OF 2026**

An Act to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014.

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

### **1 Amendment**

The Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act No. 13 of 2014 is amended as set out in the Schedule.

### **2 Transitional Provision**

On and after the commencement of this Act, the Director, the Deputy Director and the staff of the Unit are to continue to be employed as the Director, the Deputy Director and the staff of the Unit:

- (a) on the same terms and conditions; and
- (b) in the same position and with the same classification,

until such time the person's employment lawfully ceases or the person's employment terms and conditions, position or classification lawfully changes.

### **3 Commencement**

This Act will commence on the date appointed by the Prime Minister by notice published in the Gazette.

## SCHEDULE

### AMENDMENTS OF THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTER-TERRORISM FINANCING ACT NO. 13 OF 2014

**1 Paragraph 2(a)**

Repeal the paragraph.

**2 Section 4**

Delete “Office of the Attorney General”, substitute “Reserve Bank of Vanuatu”

**3 Subsections 7(1), 7A(1) and 7A(2)**

Delete “Attorney General”, substitute “Governor of the Reserve Bank, on the recommendation of the Board of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu”

**4 Paragraphs 7(2A)(a) and (b)**

Delete “Attorney General”, substitute “Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu”

**5 Subsection 8(1)**

Delete “Attorney General”, substitute “Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu”

**6 Subsection 8(2)**

Delete “Attorney General”, substitute “Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu”

**7 Subsection 8B(2)**

Delete “The Reserve Bank of Vanuatu or”, substitute “Any”