

## **Important meetings happening January - February 2019**

### **1/ Economic & Trade Signing Agreement between Vanuatu and New Caledonia - Private Sector Opportunities**

The honorable Prime Minister will lead a delegation to New Caledonia next month for the signing of an Economic & Trade Agreement between Vanuatu and New Caledonia. Along with the signing of the agreement there will be an opportunity for private sector businesses wishing to access this export market to be included on a Goods List, which will be used during "Business to Business" meetings with relevant stakeholders interested in export agreements.

VCCI has organized a Consultation Meeting between members and Eliu Luen, EIF Manager, Trade Development Division on **Tuesday 29 January at 9am at the VCCI Conference Room** to hear more about the opportunity of being included on the Goods List for Vanuatu business owners.

We are asking all the interested members to download and read the Bills before the meeting, to save unnecessary questions. Taking up time.

All VCCI members are welcome to attend this meeting. To confirm your attendance you can email VCCI Reception at [reception@vcci.com.vu](mailto:reception@vcci.com.vu) or phone 27543 or 7123967.

### **2/ Public Consultation on Proposed Political Reform Laws**

The Vanuatu Government is intending to bring in laws to regulate:

- Political parties,
- Candidates standing for election to Parliament, and
- The movement and affiliation of Members of Parliament,
- For the purpose of reducing political instability and enhancing the integrity of Parliament and its members.

The proposed political reform package of the Government consists of one new law, an amendment to the Constitution, and amendments to two existing laws.

The four proposed Bills are:

1. A new law, the Bill for the Political Parties (Regulation) Act
2. An amendment to the Constitution, The Constitution (Seventh)(Amendment) Act
3. Bill for the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act
4. Bill for the Charitable Associations (Incorporation)(Amendment) Act

The political reform package bills can be downloaded from this link <https://www.gov.vu/en/public-information>

VCCI is organising a Consultation Meeting on the Political Reform package and has invited the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Ralph Regenvanu to come to present the proposed bills on political reform to VCCI and its members.

This meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday 30 January 2019 at midday** at the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce & Industry.

All VCCI members are welcome to attend this consultation meeting. To confirm your attendance you can email VCCI Reception at [reception@vcci.com.vu](mailto:reception@vcci.com.vu) or phone 27543 or 7123967.

### **3/ Work Permits Act Amendments**

As business owners, if you would like an opportunity to feedback on the Work Permits Act Amendments which were gazetted last week, you are invited to attend the Consultation Meeting between the Department of Labour, VCCI and business members on **Work Permits Act Amendments on Monday 4 February 2019 at 3.30pm**. At the Ramada Hotel Conference Room.

In the best interest of key stakeholders, VCCI has invited the Officers of the Department of Labour and a Ministry of Internal Affairs representative to come to explain to business members these changes and the rationale of these amendments.

It is an important matter which will affect many businesses in 2019 and into the following years.

You will be able to raise your concerns on the impact of changes to the Act and how will affect your business and the development and growth of the private sector as a whole.

If you wish to receive a copy of the debated Work Permits Act Amendments by email prior to attending the meeting, you can email VCCI Reception at [reception@vcci.com.vu](mailto:reception@vcci.com.vu) or phone 27543 or 7123967.

### **4/ Small Business Development Bill**

As business owners we would like to make you aware of a proposed new Small Business Development Bill, drafted by the Cooperatives Department, to establish a Small Business Development Department under the Ministry of Trade, Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

VCCI is currently in the process of arranging a Consultation Meeting between the Cooperatives Department, VCCI and business members on **Friday 15 February 2019 at 9am**. A venue is yet to be confirmed by the Cooperatives Department.

In the best interests of key stakeholders, VCCI is inviting the Officers of Cooperatives Department to come to present and explain to business members this new Bill, and how it will affect small to medium business licence holders, and also the work of the VCCI current.

You will be able to raise your questions, concerns and issues on this matter and learn more about the Small Business Development Bill.

If you wish to receive a copy of the Small Business Development Bill by email prior to attending the meeting, you can email VCCI Reception at [reception@vcci.com.vu](mailto:reception@vcci.com.vu) or phone 27543 or 7123967.