



V A N U A T U
CUSTOMS & INLAND REVENUE
SERVICE DE LA DOUANE ET DES
CONTRIBUTIONS INDIRECTES

Weekly Column

>> DCIR anticipates that this Weekly Column will provide awareness to its clients and the public at large to promote voluntary compliance, achieve certainty, and avoid misunderstandings and disappointments. This approach will also ensure that DCIR achieves its objectives of collecting over 83% of the total budgeted 2013 Government revenue, protecting our borders and facilitating legitimate trade. If you miss an edition of this Column, you can obtain a copy from <http://www.customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu> or from <http://cirintranet> for those within the Government network.

Yacht penalised for calling into Port Resolution unannounced

THE SKIPPER OF THE YACHT OF A French national was penalised by Lenakel Customs for calling into the undeclared port of Port Resolution on the island of Tanna unannounced. The vessel was on its way from Tarawa, Kiribati to Bundaberg, Australia on 5th August 2014. Further to arriving

unannounced at an undeclared port, the skipper disembarked the vessel without clearance and took a public transport to Lenakel to see Customs. Upon arrival at the Customs office in Lenakel, Customs had no choice but to penalize the skipper for the three offences committed.

This is not the first time that a yacht has been penalised this season for the above offences. Yachts are therefore being reminded again that the maximum penalty for failing to inform Customs of their arrival in Vanuatu or for arriving at an undeclared port, and disembarking prior

to clearance are separate offences and are each liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding VT5,000,000, or both.

Vanuatu has been used a lot in recent years as a transit point for smuggling contrabands into Australia, mainly. Vanuatu

Customs cannot tolerate these risks anymore and has therefore stepped up on its border control efforts in 2014. It is worth noting that on the other hand, legitimate visitors can experience a higher level of facilitation by Vanuatu Customs to visit the islands of Vanuatu. We hope this would

bring about some economic benefits to our islands while at the same time give our visitors the opportunity to enjoy the islands.

For more information, please visit our up to date website <http://customsinlandrevenue.gov.vu> under Travelers and Yacht clearance.