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Circular Letter No.4509
11 February 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu**

The Government of the Republic of Vanuatu has sent the attached communication, dated 11 February 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

GOUVERNEMENT
DE LA
RÉPUBLIQUE DE
VANUATU



GOVERNMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF
VANUATU

AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

London, Friday 11th February 2022

Ki Tack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
United Kingdom

Dear Secretary General,

Re: Illegal Vanuatu International Ship Registry

I have the honour writing concerning the existence of an illegal Vanuatu international ship registry (Vanuatu Maritime & International Shipping Registry) possibly perpetrating illegal ship registration and seafarers certification on behalf of the Government of Vanuatu through an illegal website: vanuatumaritimeregistry.com.

The Government of Vanuatu is seriously concerned by such illegal practices that could seriously undermine the activities of the duly appointed Vanuatu international ship registry known as Vanuatu Maritime Services Ltd or VMSL (vanuatumaritimeships.com) which has been duly reported to the IMO as per Assembly resolution A.1142(31) on measures to prevent the fraudulent registration and fraudulent registries of ships.

In this regards, you will find attached a letter from the Hon. Minister of Infrastructures and Public Utilities responsible for Transport that we would respectfully request the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organization to disseminate through a Circular to all IMO Member States.

Yours respectfully.

Laurent Parenté



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**GOVERNMENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU** MINISTRY
OF INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC
UTILITIES
PMB 9057, PORT VILA
VANUATU



**GOVERNEMENT DE LA
REPUBLIQUE DE VANUATU**
MINISTERE DE L'EQUIPEMENT
ET DE L'AMENAGEMENT
SPP 9057, PORT VILA
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OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

February 10, 2022

Ki Tack Lim
Secretary General
International Maritime Organization
4 Albert Embankment
United Kingdom

Dear Ambassador

RE: ILLEGAL VANUATU SHIPPING REGISTRY-VMR

It has come to the Government attention that an illegal Vanuatu International Ship Registry is currently in operation under the name: [Vanuatu Maritime & International Shipping registrv\(vanuatumaritimeregistry.com\)](http://VanuatuMaritime&InternationalShippingregistrv(vanuatumaritimeregistry.com))

At that time of writing this letter, the Government of Vanuatu has no information on the extend of the Fraud and whether any vessel registrations or seafarer's certificates have been performed through this illegal Vanuatu Ship registry.

The Government of Vanuatu is taking this matter seriously and has already initiated some actions seeking to close this illegal Vanuatu International Ship Registry website in the immediate future.

This fraud poses a threat to the operations of the duly appointed Vanuatu Ship Registry known as Vanuatu Maritime Services Ltd or VMSL-[www.vanuatumaritimships.com-operating from its office in New York operational officeremail@vanuatuships.com](http://www.vanuatumaritimships.com-operating-from-its-office-in-New-York-operational-officeremail@vanuatuships.com).

Through you, we respectfully request all IMO member States Port Authorities to take appropriate steps to ensure that all duly Vanuatu registered vessels and certified seafarers are not penalized by this outrageous scam.

We would respectfully request that the Secretariat General of the International Maritime Organization to issue a circular in order to notify all members states accordingly.

Yours Sincerely,


Honorable Minister Jay NGWELE(MP)
Minister of Public Works and Public Utilities

