NUMBER OF NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROJECT APPROVALS IN Q1 2018 DECLINED 10 PERCENT. CHINA CONTINUES TO DOMINATE.

MAIN POINTS

During the 1st quarter of 2018 a total of 46 new FDI applications have been approved by the VIPA Board – five fewer applications (10 percent down) compared to the previous quarter.

Of the total number of approvals, China accounts for the majority with a share of 39 percent.
• Growth in the Wholesale and Retail Trade (WRT) and Accommodation & Food Service Activities (AFSA) have been and remain strong because of their direct relationship with the country's successful tourism industry.

• The Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities (PSTA) or F4 according to the Business Licenses Classification has been and remains a growing industry. For example during the 1st quarter, the number of approvals in this industry increased 56 percent and 133 percent increase during the same period the previous year.

• Proposals in the Professional, Scientific & Technical Activities (PSTA) approved accounted 16 percent of the total proposed value of all approved investments during the quarter.

B. APPROVED PROJECTS BY SOURCE MARKET & PROPOSED VALUE

Fig 3. Proposed Investment Values by FDI source markets, Q4-2017: Millions of Vatu

- China records the biggest investment with a proposed value of close to 1 Billion Vatu during the quarter and Joint Venture Others and Australia as second biggest investors with investment values of VT379 M and VT322 M respectively.
D. VALUE OF APPROVED PROJECTS BY GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

- Port Vila continues to claim the majority share of all new approved FDI projects accounting for 80 percent of all approvals while Shefa and Sanma accounted for the remaining.

- It is very encouraging to note the increasing number of FDI into the Sanma province.

- Total proposed value of investment for Sanma province reached VT214,130 Million Vatu and nineteen proposed employment for Ni Vanuatu.