

# Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR)

## Presentation to

## the National ICT Development Committee

30 January 2013

Holiday Inn, Port Vila



The Government  
of The Republic  
of Vanuatu



Telecommunications &  
Radiocommunications  
Regulator

# Presentation Topics

- Who is the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR)?
- Role of the TRR
- Current major developments (Issues and Achievements)
- Planning for the Future
- Opportunities for enhancing ICT utilization
- Lessons Learnt



# Who is TRR?

- TRR is the independent Regulator of Telecommunications and Radiocommunications in Vanuatu
- Established through the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Act of 2009.
- Reports to the Minister for Telecommunications.
- Funded and operates through License fees and World Bank supplement



# Role of the TRR

- Facilitate the development of the telecommunications sector and manage radio spectrum to promote national, social and economic development:
  - Encourage sustainable market competition
  - Protect Consumers
  - Support Minister on policy advice
  - As the Trustee, administer the UAP fund in accordance with Government UA Policy
- Assist the Government in the implementation of its ICT/Telecommunications policies through the development of legal, regulatory instruments and technical expertise to support sustainable telecommunications growth for the benefit of the nation



# Current Major Developments (Issues and Achievements)

- Rensarie UAP Broadband Pilot Project – Final Phase
- Support the Government’s vision “**ICT for ALL**” - assisting GOV with its ICT day show case (17 May) – facilitating uptake of ICT services, especially in rural community areas
- Agreement to have a Vanuatu Internet Exchange Point (VIXP) which will keep local traffic local (Cost savings, fast speed)
- Internet Issues & Governance: Management of .VU ccTLD (appropriate resource management and stimulate internet uptake )
- Supporting the Government’s cybersecurity policy and strategies



# Current Major Developments (Issues & Achievements)

- Supporting the Government in it's National ICT Development Committee (NIDC)
- Working cooperatively with industry (e.g. Gov roundtable)
- Consumer protection and awareness initiatives (Advisory Groups)
- Assisting NERG through specification of short dialing codes for a 24 X 7 emergency response
- Anti-Competitive Claim – Abuse of Dominance and Price discrimination (TVL/Digicel)
- Court Case 152 on Digicel/TRR dispute on mobile termination rates



# Looking to the future - 3 Year Work Plan includes

- Assist Gov in the implementation of its ICT and UA policy
- Proactively monitor & review the telecommunications market, e.g. competition and consumer guidelines
- Finalize TRR's Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO) decision
- Telecommunications and market statistics and indicators: database and reporting
- Quality of service reporting
- Spectrum audit and monitoring



# Looking to the future - 3 Year Work Plan includes

- Online internet safety campaign and education
- Internet Governance (safety and security)
- Increase consumer education, protection and awareness
- Work with industry to develop the most appropriate Internet .VU management arrangement for Vanuatu
- Establish VIXP and make it operational
- Preparing for the Submarine Cable – establishing the appropriate regulatory framework
- Promote and facilitate infrastructure sharing





# Opportunities for enhancing ICT utilization

- Support ICT/UA Policy implementation initiatives – TRR has a key role to play in this
- Support Government initiatives for increased education and awareness, including campaigns (e.g. National ICT day)
- Support Government ICT capacity building initiatives
- TRR actively encourages wider mobile network coverage throughout Vanuatu: both operators now have 3G networks in Port Vila and Luganville
- Promoting e-business in Vanuatu - a “connected” Vanuatu (GoV, business and individuals) improves efficiencies, reduces costs and increases business opportunities
- Ensuring cybersecurity measures are put in place
- Through the NIDC
- Government wide universal access partnership programs
- Informed consumers can assist market uptake



# Lessons Learnt

- Wide consultation with all key stakeholders (multistakeholders) is essential
- Establishing and maintaining a good working relationships with Government and industry is critical
- Capacity building in the Telecommunications/ICT sector is vital
- Increased awareness of ICT/Telecommunications benefits both the consumer and the market
- Decision makers must be well informed of the technology trends (technology changes rapidly)



# Lessons Learnt

- The impact of Technology has both positive and negative effects e.g. increased education opportunities, and cyber threats
- Challenges that the Telecommunications/ICT sector faces include:
  - Lack of Infrastructure
  - Sourcing appropriate funding
  - Low literacy and the need for increased education using ICT applications
  - Need for Government to prioritize and develop relevant policies e.g. NICT policy, UA policy, Broadband policy
  - Stimulating innovation

