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‘Exciting’ Universal Access Developments in Vanuatu

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The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu



Telecommunications &
Radiocommunications
Regulator

About Vanuatu

- Archipelago 83 islands lying between New Caledonia and Fiji. (Located in South Pacific)
- Total Land Area 4720 square metres
- 75% Living in Rural Areas, 25% in Urban Areas
- Total Population 240,000
- Official Language English, French & Bislama (Pidgin English).
- 160+ Local languages & cultures



Universal Access Framework

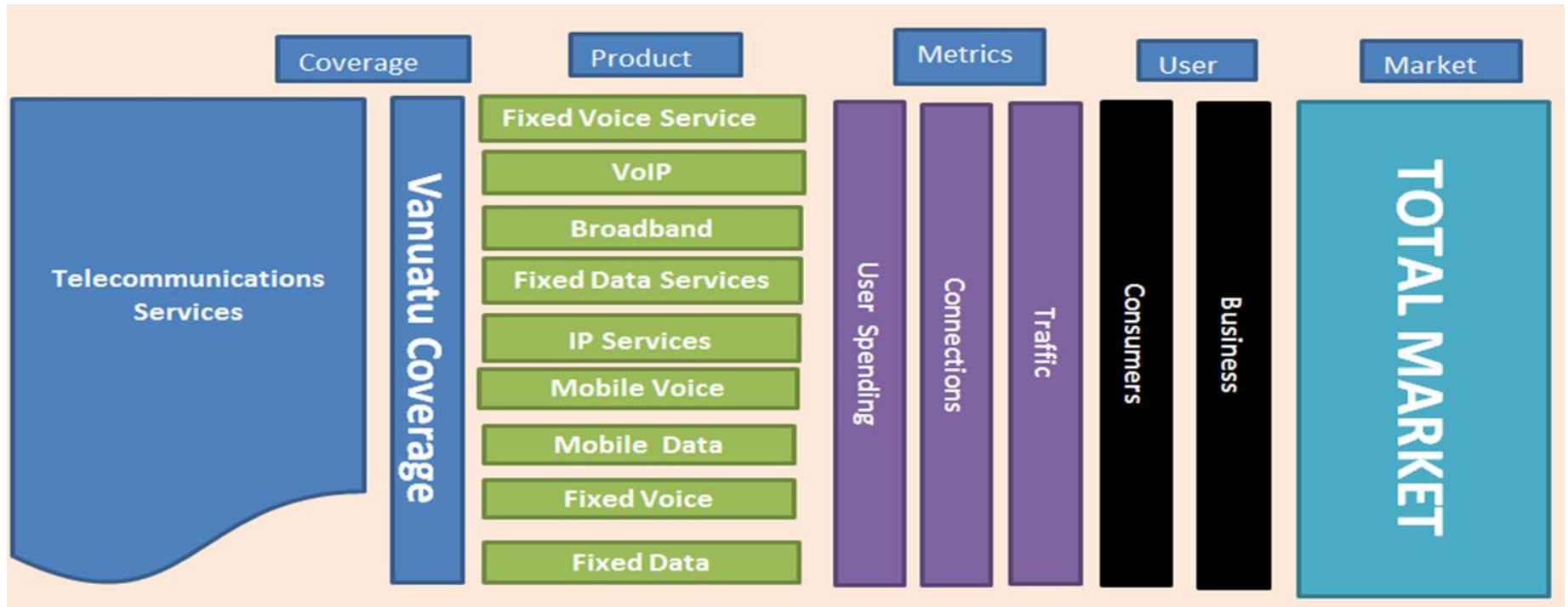
- Millennium Development Goals – set by UN
- Government's Priority Action Agenda (PAA) 2006 – 2015
- National ICT Policy – nearing completion (October 2013)
- Universal Access Policy (UAP) – nearing completion (October 2013)
- UAP Fund: Agreement between AusAID, OGCIO & TRR for access to 'Partitioned Funding'
- TRR will implement the policy, manages universal access & administers the UAP Fund



TRR

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Vanuatu Telecom Market Dynamic



- Until 2008: fixed voice & data plus approx. 20% mobile coverage
- Now: Approx. 90% & 70+% mobile coverage

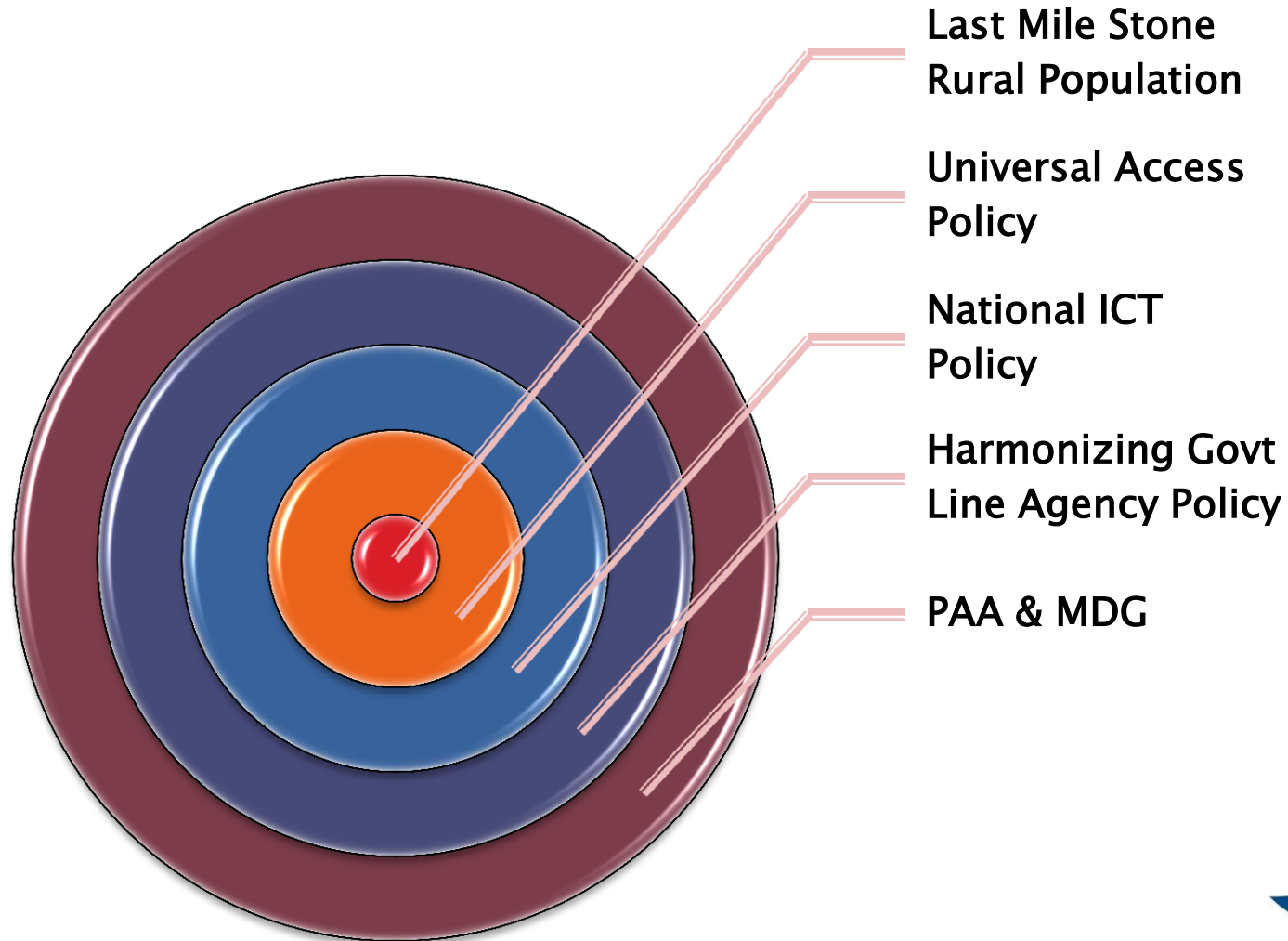


Rural Development & UAP

- Current Coverage 90% Voice (2008 20%) over 63 Islands: of 83 Islands
- Universal Access Policy is aimed at reaching the last milestone: unserved & underserved from current telecommunications operators
- How best to achieve it?
- Through Donors: APT, ITU, Individual Countries, Donor Partners, Vanuatu Operators, Govt initiatives & support, other mechanisms?
- Our experience shows 'reach the community through schools'



The Last Milestone



National ICT Policy

- Embraces ICT contribution to national development & the economy
- Sets Priorities, Approaches & Principles, lists expected results and time frames– outcomes & impacts, & lists strategies for its implementation (nearly 60 page document)
- Will have all Govt. Departments on-line.
- Govt (OGCIO) has signed MOU with Education Ministry for facilitation of ICT awareness & ICT access & provision through schools



UAP

- Specifies required level of *access* to telecom's services
 - By January 2018 98 percent of the Vanuatu Population will have (and continue having) access to the following telecommunications services:
 - Voice
 - Narrowband data services, including text messaging
 - Broadband internet services that enable a download speed of at least 21 Mbps & an upload speed of at least 12 Mbps



UAP contd.

- By January 2018 these *services* must be available at all:
 - Primary, secondary & tertiary schools, vocational training facilities as well as early childhood education facilities
 - Health facilities, including hospitals, health centers and dispensaries
 - Public offices
- The level of access to telecommunications services achieved prior to the Policy, as well as in the course of implementation of the Policy cannot be decreased



UAP contd.

- Services must be provided at geographically uniform prices
- TRR will implement and enforce
- TRR will monitor achievement of UAP objectives
- Policy proposes a 'Pay' (collect a levy) or 'Play' (agree with operators on an approach that will achieve Policy objectives) approach
- Not just service provision – includes hardware and software: tablets, laptops, etc



UAP Contd.

- TRR may utilize UAP subsidies – particularly for open, shared, non-discriminatory passive infrastructure for operators to utilize
- Within 4 months, TRR *must* enter into agreements with operators (Play approach) OR make alternative decisions
- TRR can issue Decisions, Orders, Regulations, amend licenses, etc to achieve desired outcomes
- Every 6 months TRR must report to Minister on progress



UAP Fund & Other Projects

- UAP Fund currently has ring-fenced donor contribution (AusAID)
- UAP Fund initiatives, together with UAP implementation, provides exciting opportunity to take Universal Access (UA) forward in Vanuatu
- Other UA Projects are foreseen: Telecentre project with APT
- TRR will draw from its experience (Rensarie) in implementing UAP and utilizing UAP Funds
- Key lesson: Focus on Youth and reach the community through schools.

