**The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu**

Update Report on Telecommunications & Radiocommunications Sector

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Presented to the National ICT Development Committee, Meeting No.4/2014, Melanesian Hotel

Agenda – Issues covered

➢ Report on programs and projects that TRR is implementing to support the National ICT Policy, UAP & Cybersecurity Policy

➢ 2015 Programs

➢ Report on the impact of Submarine Cable – Social & Economic

2014 Programs to Assist Implementation of NICT Policy & UAP

➢ TRR is implementing a wide-range of programs – "2014 & Onwards Work Program" on our website
➢ Some directly connected with NICT Policy implementation follow
➢ Implementation of UAP & all UA & ICT initiatives: Connecting a School, Connecting a Community
➢ Telecommunication statics & a statistics database
➢ Quality of service Guidelines/Regulation
➢ Mobile signal coverage audit - starting
➢ Determination on UAP Broadband Speeds
➢ Spectrum Management Principles
➢ New National Frequency Allocation Table
➢ New Radio Apparatus & Spectrum Fees
➢ Decision on Fixed Microwave Service Spectrum Band Planning

2014 Programs to Assist Implementation of NICT Policy & UAP

➢ Decision on 700 MHz Spectrum Band Plan
➢ Coordinate and facilitate National Emergency Response Group matters; including TRR warning against hoax & malicious calls to Emergency numbers (NERG now Chaired by CIO, OGCIO)
➢ Increase in Consumer Awareness and Education, and on rights and responsibilities
➢ Consumer Protection Regulation – a powerful tool for consumers: TRR must now approve *all* Terms & Conditions
➢ Establishment of Community Consumer Champions
➢ Support the Government with National ICT day celebrations
➢ Widen representation of Consumer Advisory Group
➢ .vu ccTLD Management & Administration Regulation

Implementation of Cybersecurity and UAP Policies

➢ **Implementation Cybersecurity Policy –** covered in detail by Louise Nasak, TRR's Manager, Technical & Internet Governance

  ➢ Vanuatu Child Online Protection

  ➢ Dialogue on Cybersecurity legislation

➢ **Implementation of Universal Access Policy -** covered in detail by Alma Wensi, TRR's UAP Project Manager

  ➢ UAP Implementation Strategies & initiatives

  ➢ Other UAP Programs

2015 TRR Programs & Priorities

➢ Continue focus on UAP implementation

➢ Review & determination of the telecom's market(s)

➢ Facilitate finalization of Vanuatu's COP Protection Strategy Framework & actively support & drive COP initiatives

➢ Finalize & conduct assessment of compliance with QoS Guidelines/Regulation

➢ Conduct a Radio Spectrum audit & Review of Spectrum Master Plan

➢ Finalize .vu ccTLD Management & Administration Regulation

➢ Establish an Internet Code of Practice

➢ Monitor implementation & effectiveness of TRR Consumer Protection Regulation

➢ Establish & conduct regulatory ICT surveys

➢ Assist GOV with National ICT Day

➢ Review & update National Numbering Plan

➢ Sale & Import of Equipment Regulation

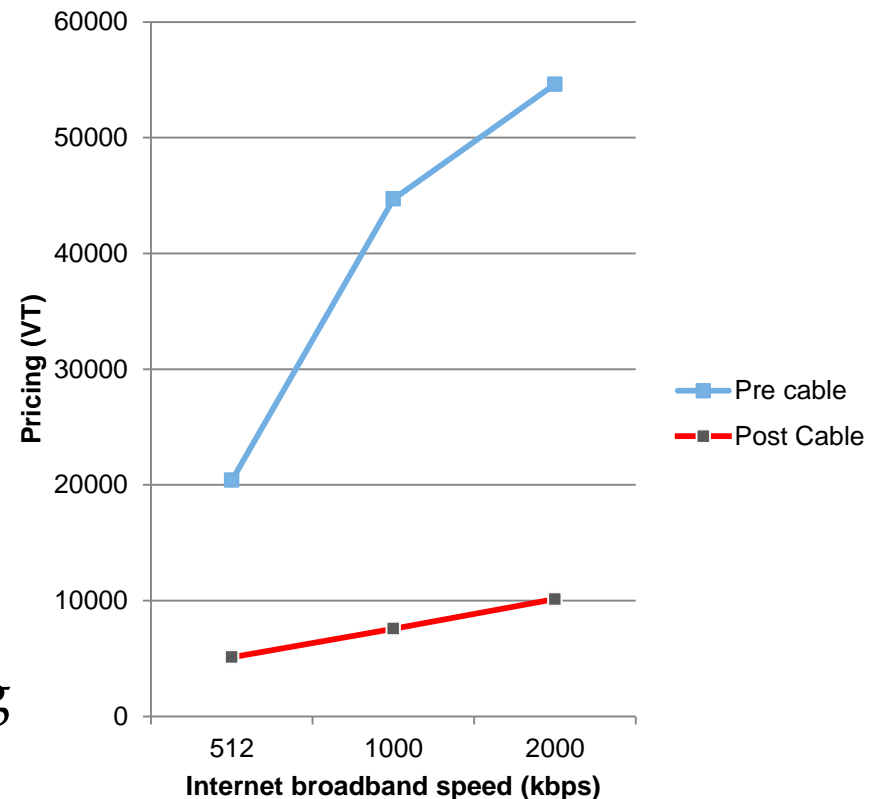➢ Develop an Annual Telecommunications Market Status Report

Impact of Submarine Cable

➤ Vanuatu connected to the Fibre Optic Cable late November 2013. It became operational in January 2014

➤ It is a 1,250 km submarine cable that connects Vanuatu and Fiji, linking to the Southern Cross Cable providing access to the World

➤ Major (ISP) operators are all connected to the cable - March and April 2014 – TVL, Digicel, Telsat, Wantok

➤ Majority of ISP's traffic routed through the submarine cable

➤ Vanuatu's Internet Exchange Point (IXP) ensures efficient routing of local traffic & retention of local traffic in Vanuatu; not overseas and back

Social and Economic Impact Of Submarine Cable within the Sector (2014 onwards)

- Internet Prices have dropped significantly - more than 70%
- Internet Speed has improved – 4Mbps up to 20 Mbps significantly
- 2013, internet penetration was 15%. Expected to increase from now significantly (Submarine Cable + UAP)
- More capacity for internet traffic
- Innovative services introduced in the market e.g. flybox, mobile data bonuses, more data packages, etc
- Internet demand steadily increasing e.g. use of smart phones, online participation (Facebook YTS)

Internet broadband Pricing (Average)

Chart: Pricing (VT) vs Internet broadband speed (kbps). Two series: Pre cable (blue), Post Cable (red).

Submarine Cable - Currently

➤ Wholesale pricing for connection to the cable - resolved

➤ Currently, TRR is monitoring wholesale activity with key focus on retail market – but we will act as required to ensure compliance with the Act

➤ Backhaul capacity and redundancy links availability provision

➤ Competitive and market driven applications and offerings

➤ Connecting rural areas via the cable – will still use microwave links/satellite

➤ Key role of UAP in driving uptake and ICT use

Submarine Cable – A look to the future

➤ Market drive innovation – international trend shows that pricing will continue to decrease over time and take-up will increase

➤ TRR will continue to actively monitor wholesale market & will intervene where necessary

➤ TRR will continue to work closely with Government for effective utilization of this infrastructure and protect its investment, as well as protect and assist consumers and industry at large.

➤ Vanuatu has positioned itself well now for E-GOV and other ICT initiatives with ICT as the enabler

➤ Power, reach and capacity of submarine cable connectivity, E-GOV network, Connect a School, Connect a Community and UAP rollout