

Implementation of the Government's Universal Access Policy (UAP)

Kick Start Meeting with Licensees & Service Providers

14th January 2014



The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu



TRR

Telecommunication &
Radiocommunication
Regulator

Agenda

1. Welcome by Regulator
2. Introduction
3. Policy Overview – OGCIO
4. Policy Implementation - TRR
5. Questions



Introduction



Purpose

To ensure ***all*** telecom licensees and service providers are fully aware of their requirements and expected deliverables to achieve the Government's set outcomes for the implementation of its UAP.



Universal Access Policy

- The Act: Telecommunications & Radiocommunications Regulation Act 2009
- Section 17 sets out the Universal Access Policy (UAP)
 - Minister must develop a Policy for improving access to telecom services for un-served or underserved areas (UAP Areas)
 - Policy must be approved by the COM – **Approval by COM on the 7th of November 2013**
- Section 18 allows the Regulator to conclude contracts on behalf of the Government for the payment of subsidies in consideration of the provision of telecom services to UAP areas.



UAP Fund

- UAP Fund (Section 19)
 - TRR can levy licensees up to 4% of net revenue.
 - To date TRR has estimated a levy each year but has not imposed collection of the levy.
 - TRR advises Industry annually of its UAP levy intentions.
 - Levy applies from 1st of July to 30th June.
 - Trust fund set up by the Minister for the purpose of UAP.
 - Administered by the Regulator as trustee.
 - Apart from any Licensee's levy, any entity can contribute to the UAP Fund.
 - Currently UAP Fund contains AusAid and TRR funding.



Other UA Initiatives

- TRR , AusAid & OGCIO in discussion over UAP Fund Utilization:
 - Establishment of public Telecentres
 - Public internet cafés
 - Schools connectivity
 - Tablets for Students Programs
 - Improve access to telecommunications services for locations which are not served or are not yet adequately serviced by existing service provision
- APT Telecentre Project (Provisions of 3 Rural and Remote Telecentres).
- Rensarie(A Broadband Pilot Project under the UAP Fund) – now self sustainable.
- Any UAP Fund initiative must be agreed by AusAid, OGCIO and TRR.
- All UA Initiatives contribute to the achievement of the Government's UAP objectives.

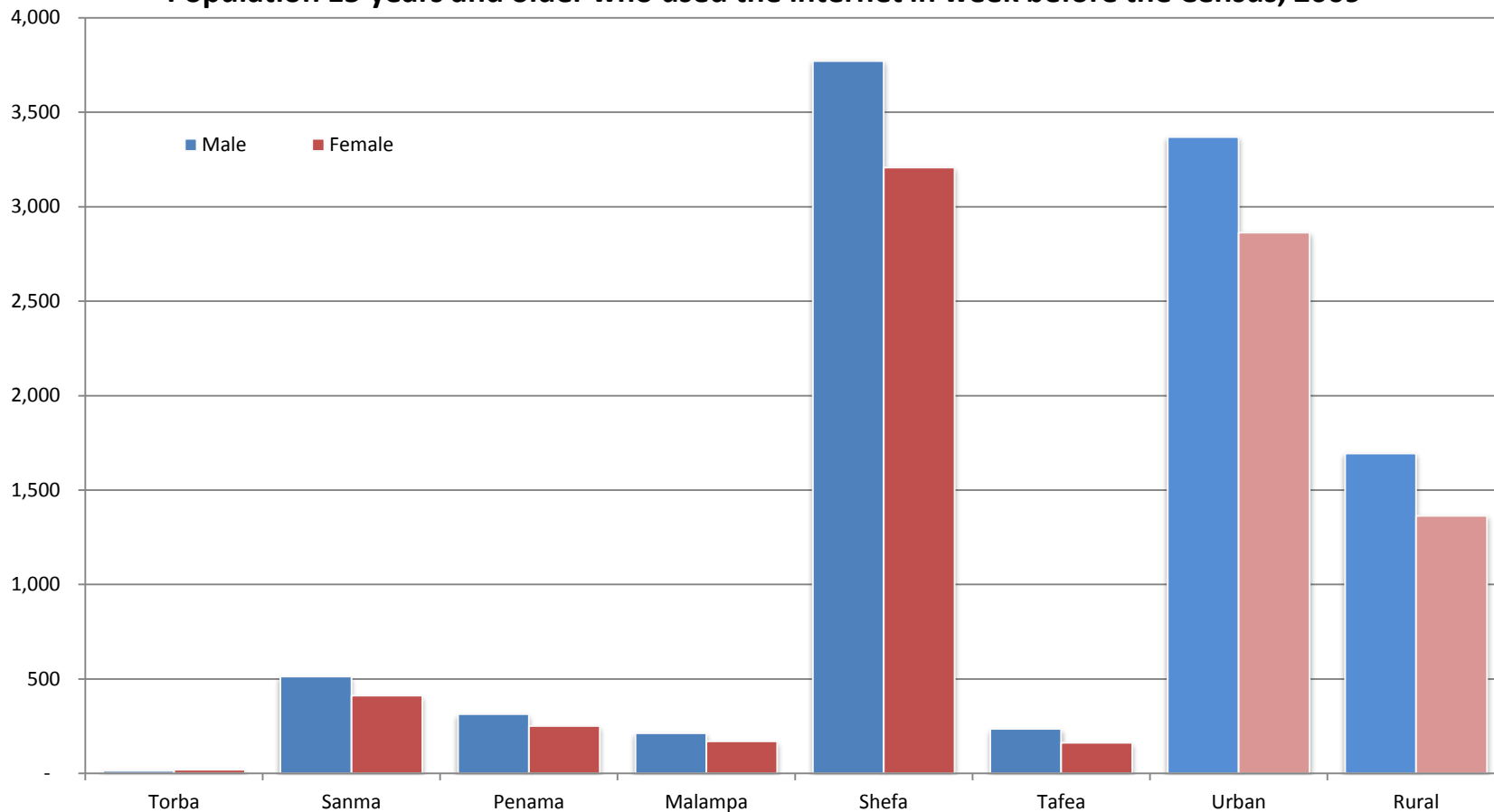


Where we are today

- Voice & SMS population coverage is currently estimated to be around 92%.
- Digicel estimated at more than 90% coverage.
- TVL estimated at around 70% coverage.
- Internet Usage nationally is very low. 2009 Census report finds:
 - 6.7% of population uses internet
 - 16.3% usage in Urban areas & 3% in rural areas.
- Anecdotal indications show 23% internet growth by mid 2012.
- But subscriptions remain very low particularly in rural and remote areas.
- Digital Divide gap must be closed – Government's UAP is intended to overcome this challenge.



Population 15 years and older who used the internet in week before the Census, 2009



Source: National Statistics Office



INTERNET USE IS STILL LIMITED, BUT PEOPLE WANT IT

72%

OF ALL RESPONDENTS HAVE **NEVER SEEN OR USED THE INTERNET**

79%

OF **RURAL RESPONDENTS** HAVE NEVER SEEN OR USED THE INTERNET



12%

OF ALL RESPONDENTS HAVE **SEEN AND USED THE INTERNET**

17%

OF ALL RESPONDENTS HAVE SEEN **BUT NOT USED THE INTERNET**

Net Effects

Social and economic impacts of telecommunications and internet in Vanuatu

Selected data from 2011 research findings report



Pacific Institute
of Public Policy

pacificpolicy.org



UAP Key Deliverables

- 98% Population Coverage by 1st of January 2018 to:
 - Voice Services
 - Narrowband Data Services including text messaging
 - Broadband(BB) Internet Services with download speed of at least 21 Mbps and upload speed of at least 12 Mbps
- Major Areas of Focus
 - Education Facilities
 - Health Facilities
 - Public Offices
 - General Population
- Submit Implementation Plan to COM by 7th of March 2014
- Telecom Licensees and Service Providers UAP Implementation plan closing date 4.00pm Friday 14th February 2014



Policy Overview - OGCIO



TRR's Role in Policy Implementation

- Implement UAP and its Universal Access Provisions.
- Manage achievement of objectives set out in policy.
- Regularly report to Government.
- Agree with **all** telecom licensees and service providers appropriate commitments that, in aggregate, would achieve objectives of this Policy.
- If agreement cannot be reached TRR will set and collect a levy with licensees.



TRR's Intention

Play:

1. We want licensees and service providers to roll out to rural areas and inform TRR of their plans and details;
 - Specifications, locations, type of technology, type of service, extent of coverage,
 - Number of population covered
2. Collectively work with TRR to achieve the Government's objectives.
3. TRR will meet one-on-one and collectively with licensees to facilitate.

Pay:

1. TRR will impose levy on those licensees who do not commit to UAP implementation under the Play approach.
2. TRR will design projects to achieve Government's objectives through subsidies from UAP Fund from imposed levies.



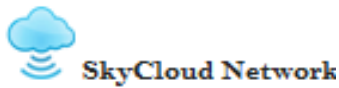
Who's Involved?

Is it just TVL and Digicel?

NO



Everyone is. All Licensees, including:



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How to achieve this?

- Cooperative working is TRR's desired methodology.
- Industry to collectively deliver plan by 7th of March 2014.
- TRR recommends liaison with fellow Licensees and Service Providers to come up with, in aggregate achieve objectives of the Policy.
- TRR will consult collectively, individually with Licensees and Service Providers as required.
- Telecoms Licensees and Service Providers **MUST** submit plans to TRR by 4pm Friday 14th of February 2014.
- TRR will review submissions and meet with Stakeholders as required.
- Most likely another joint meeting will be held in Week 3 of February.



Questions

