

SUBMARINE CABLE ARRIVES IN 15 DAYS

By Thompson Marango

THE LAYING OF THE submarine fiber optic cable has commenced from Fiji on November 11 and will take approximately 17 days before it arrives in Port Vila.

Interchange CEO, Simon Fletcher confirmed to Daily Post that if everything goes according to plan without any major hiccups, the cable should be expected to arrive in Vanuatu by 28 November.

But he said depending on the weather, works can be delayed, but so far things are going according to plan to launch the submarine cable service by January 15, 2014.

According to Mr Fletcher, once the cable landed at Mele bay, there will be electronic testing before the service provided by the submarine cable could be available.

"It is an achievement for the team and is a combination of several years of work," said Fletcher.

"All electronic equipment has arrived here to connect the cable when it finally arrives," he added.

Over 1,200km long, the submarine fiber optic cable is set to transform Vanuatu's access to high speed communications and end its former reliance on satellite for international connectivity.

It will connect Vanuatu to the Southern Cross Cable Network which links Australia and New Zealand with the USA.

Vanuatu's Interchange Ltd in partnership with Alcatel-Lucent is in charge of the cable deployment which is the first for Vanuatu.

The cable initially will support 20 Gigabits per second (Gbps-data transfer speed measurement for high-speed networks) more than 200 times Vanuatu's current capacity.

The submarine cable system's capacity can grow to 320 Gbps.



Cable deploying has commenced in Fiji