

TVL to install tower on Hiw

By Ania Roberts

THE LONG-TIME CRIES OF PEOPLE ON THE five islands of the northernmost Torres group for better communication has been answered when TVL (Telecom Vanuatu Limited) announced it is erecting a tower at Hiw soon.

TVL proclaimed this in its response to the concerns raised by the Torres Islands Council of Chiefs representative, Chief Michel Adam,

who travelled to Port Vila to attend a recent consultation that seeks a partnership between TVL and the National Matvatumauri Council of Chiefs.

Chief Adam told TVL during discussions that communication is an essential lacking need for his people that for more than 30 years after independence. People there are still using the old technology tele-radios for contact, which makes it

very challenging during emergencies.

In its response TVL said: "We (the company) took the objective in 2010 to build 10 towers in ten villages throughout Vanuatu, from Torres to Anietyum.

"Nine have been erected and by the end of this month or beginning of next month the last tower would be built at the Torres Islands. The government has already approved for the shipment of the equipment".

Chief Adam said the community of Hiw has allocated a site for the development in 2012 following a survey on Hiw as the appropriate installation site.

"For the past years we have waited for this development but nothing happened. About four times already we have cut the grass and cleared the site.

"Because of our hard works and will to have access to communication

like other islands do, I will return this good news to my people", said Mr Adam.

The Torres Islands are not only facing communication problem but also regular transportation link with the rest of Vanuatu and lack of essential services and needs.

The national telecommunication provider called onto Chief Adam to provide manpower once all equipment reaches Hiw.

ICT key in achieving Millennium Development Goals: Carcasses

By Jonas Cullwick

THE ARRIVAL OF THE INTERCHANGE Submarine Cable from Fiji will totally change the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Telecommunications landscape of Vanuatu, Prime Minister Moana Carcasses said in his opening speech at the 18th Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) in Port Vila last week.

This service, he said, will link Vanuatu to the outside world with a fantastic speed and capacity, for the first time in Vanuatu's history.

"All of our major operators have now signed up to the cable, and are in the process of providing those marvelous benefits to customers," the Vanuatu Prime Minister added.

He said the people, the press, and all the political parties support the expansion of ICTs and Telecommunications in the country, allowing for an open market with two major operators – Telecom Vanuatu Limited and Digicel.

He outlined the country's ICT achievements to date that include: an excellent and independent Telecommunications Regulatory, mobile penetration gone from just 5% to over 90% of households in just six years; a \$28-million (Vt280-million) Government Broadband



PM Carcasses

Network built; an Internet Exchange Point (IXP) – first the Pacific Islands established; Government inventorized all its ICT assets and established an Enterprise Architecture for its ICT systems; and Parliament passed three major policies in 2013 – The National ICT Policy, the National Cyber-security Policy, and The National Universal Access Policy.

Prime Minister Carcasses pointed out that all these success are a result of a multi-stakeholder approach between the government, private sector, and civil society, which "makes Vanuatu one of the best places in the Pacific to invest in ICTs."

"We are committed to using ICT to achieve our national vision of 'A just, educated, healthy and wealthy Vanuatu,'" he continued.

He told more than 250 delegates attending the PITA AGM from throughout the

Pacific Islands, Australia and New Zealand and further afield that Vanuatu saw ICTs as key in achieving all of the country's Millennium Development Goals.

Vanuatu's National ICT Policy directs all government ministries, policy-makers and major project managers to allocate a reasonable percentage of their budgets to ICTs as enablers of success.

The nation's Universal Access Policy directs operators to connect 98% of the population by January 1, 2018, mostly with mobile broadband. A major emphasis will be on connecting schools, health facilities and public offices.

Prime Minister Carcasses emphasized that his government's key goals and objectives are premised on improving the economy and activity focused towards use of technologies for the overall growth of the nation.

Domestic export earnings in February 2014 decreased against 2013 figure

Compiled by Jonas Cullwick

VANUATU'S TRADE DEFICIT (the excess of imports over exports) in February 2014 stood at Vt2,286 million, showing a deterioration of Vt76 million over February 2013 from Vt2,210 million, according to figures released by the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO).

The VNSO's Statistics Update on Overseas Trade for February shows that total imports increased by 1% or Vt24 million from Vt2,461 million in February 2013 to Vt2,485 million in February 2014. The decrease in the trade balance was mainly due to increased imports for home consumption, by 1% or Vt23 million from Vt2,457 million to Vt2,480 million over February 2013.

Domestic exports earnings (excluding re-exports) for February 2014 decreased by 21% or Vt52 million over February 2013 from Vt251 million to Vt199 million. The decrease was because there were no copra exports, and decreases in sawn timber, coconut meal and fish exports in February 2014

VNSO's February Highlight records that in February 2014, for the main export commodities, kava constituted the largest share in value at 29% followed by coconut oil 17%, beef 15%, shell 9%, live fish 5%, and other products 20%, while the rest of the

export group made up less than 5% each. Other products comprised of pharmaceuticals, Azure Pure Water, citrus fruits (rahitian limes), tamaru oil and scrap metals.

Coconut products exports in value over February 2013 showed decreases for coconut oil and coconut meal by 32% and 76% in February 2014. Meanwhile there were no copra exports over the same period of the previous year.

Earnings from Kava exports increased from Vt47 million in February 2013 to Vt57 million in February 2014, indicating an increase of 21% or Vt10 million. Beef export earnings also increased by 15% or Vt4 million in February 2014 compared to Vt26 million in February 2013. The bulk of kava exports this month were mainly to Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, USA and Guam, while most of the beef were destined for Solomon Islands, Japan and New Zealand.

The VNSO February Highlight on Overseas Trade shows too that in terms of imports by commodity groups, mineral fuels registered the largest value (C.I.F) at Vt750 million or 30% of the total imports for home consumption, followed by machines and transport 24% or Vt587 million, food and live animals 13%, basic manufactured goods 12%, chemical products 8%, miscellaneous goods 7%, and other products such as,

beverages and tobacco, crude materials, goods not classified elsewhere and oils and fats made up less than 5% each of the total imports for home consumption over the month of February 2014.

The reports shows that in February 2014, imports of machines and transport equipment increased by 79% or Vt259 million in value over February 2013, followed by beverages and tobacco 31%, chemical products 11%, miscellaneous manufactured goods and oils and fats 4% respectively.

Meanwhile the rest of the commodity group that decreased according to VNSO's figures were: Goods not classified elsewhere (-72%), crude materials (-33%), food and live animals (-31%), basic manufactured goods (-14%) and mineral fuels (-4%) respectively.

The distribution of goods by country grouping was stable over the same period in February 2013. Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji were the main countries of imports in February 2014; however exhibited a few changes in position for Fiji within February 2014. Imports from Australia and Singapore remained stable while Fiji decreased by (-22%) in imports for home consumption over February 2013, the VNSO February Highlight on Overseas Trade states.

Provincial Weather Forecast

Weather Information provided by the Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazard Department.

For more information visit: www.meteor.gov.vu or Email us on: forecast@meteor.gov.vu or climeteo@meteor.gov.vu. Call us on: +678 22932 or 24686. You can also follow us on Facebook

	TORBA		SANIMA	
	Today	Tomorrow	Today	Tomorrow
FORECAST OUTLOOK	Max 31°C Min 23°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate SE winds.	Max 31°C Min 23°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate E/SE winds.	Max 30°C Min 22°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate SE winds..	Max 30°C Min 22°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate E/SE winds.
COASTAL MARINE FORECAST	SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	E/SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	E/SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m
	PENAMA		MALAMPA	
	Today	Tomorrow	Today	Tomorrow
FORECAST OUTLOOK	Max 30°C Min 22°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate SE winds.	Max 30°C Min 22°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate E/SE winds.	Max 29°C Min 19°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate SE winds.	Max 29°C Min 19°C Partly cloudy, Light to moderate S/SE winds.
COASTAL MARINE FORECAST	SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	E/SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	S/SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m

TAFEA			
FORECAST OUTLOOK	Today	Tomorrow	Today
	Max 29°C Min 20°C Light showers, Light to moderate W/NW winds.	Max 29°C Min 20°C Light showers, Light to moderate S/SE winds.	Max 28°C Min 20°C Light showers, Light to moderate W/NW winds.
COASTAL MARINE FORECAST	W/NW winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	S/SE winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m	W/NW winds 12-17 knots, Light to moderate seas to 1.0 m
TODAY			
SUNRISE	SUNSET	SUNRISE	SUNSET
0556	1736	0556	1736
TOMORROW			
SUNRISE	SUNSET	SUNRISE	SUNSET
0556	1736	0556	1736
HEIGHT (m)			
TIME	HEIGHT (m)	TIME	HEIGHT (m)
0033	0.56	0112	0.610,28
0337	1.44	0715	1.42
By Jonas Cullwick	0.28	1351	0.28
Prime Minister	1.29	2016	1.26
1930			