(PRESS RELEASE – 05 August 2014)

TRR receives more than 300 submissions to its ICT programs under the UAP

Students during a recent UAP presentation at Burumba Secondary School - Epi

TRR, as the implementing agency for the implementation of the Government's Universal Access Policy (UAP), has widely informed of the availability of a grant to assist Small Businesses, Communities, Schools and Public Offices in accessing ICT or expanding their operations through the use of ICT. The grant has been made available by Australian Aid through its Governance for Growth (GfG) program.

The core objective of UAP is to achieve 98% coverage of telecommunication service to the population of Vanuatu by 1 January 2018. These services include voice, narrow band and Broadband Internet services.

The grant will assist schools in setting up a school Computer Lab and Internet Community Center (CLICC); provide, in total, up to 1,000 tablets to schools around the country and will assist Small Businesses in setting up of Internet Cafés.

The Office of TRR has received an overwhelming response to these UAP project initiatives following the July 18th submission deadline, with over 300 applications being submitted. TRR is now processing and assessing the applications and will shortlist successful grant applicants for the UAP programs. The list of successful grant applicants will be made public in due course.

TRR wishes to thank those who have shown their interest in, and have submitted their applications for, these UAP initiated programs. We are delighted with the wide response and interest in these programs.

TRR would like to thank and acknowledge the great assistance it has received from OGCIO, the Ministry of Education, provincial governments across all six provinces and other stakeholders. We particularly thank the Australian Government for its support and aid provision in the form of this grant.