



Government of
The Republic
of Vanuatu



Telecommunication &
Radiocommunication
Regulator

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A Consultation Paper on

DOT VU COUNTRY CODE TOP LEVEL DOMAIN

(ccTLD) POLICIES

Inviting public comment and input

7 September 2017

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1. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK INFORMATION

- TRR welcomes and invites comments and feedback to this consultation documents (draft policies for the DOT VU) from all interested parties and internet communities.
- TRR would appreciate your response to be clear by quoting the corresponding main sections and sub sections when providing your comments.
- More general comments on the consultation document should also be indicated accordingly.
- In the interests of transparency, TRR will make public all or parts of any submissions made in response to these Consultation Documents unless there is a specific request to treat all or part of a response in confidence. If no such request is made, TRR will assume that the response is not intended to be confidential. TRR will evaluate requests for confidentiality according to relevant legal principles.
- Respondents are required to clearly mark any information included in their submission that they consider confidential. They shall provide reasons why that information should be treated as such. Where information claimed to be confidential is included in a submission, respondents are required to provide both a confidential and a non-confidential version of their submission. TRR will determine, whether the information claimed to be confidential is to be treated as such, and, if so, will not publish that information. In respect of the information that is determined to be non-confidential, TRR may publish or refrain from publishing such information at its sole discretion.
- TRR will accept comments in English, French or Bislama.

If comments are submitted in printed format, they must be submitted on A4 paper accompanied, wherever possible, by a flash drive containing the comments, in electronic format.

Comments on these consultation documents should be provided to TRR via the following means:

Email address consultation@trr.vu
Faxed to (678) 24470
Posted or hand delivered to:
Public Input –
Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator
P O Box 3547, Port Vila, Vanuatu

The deadline for public Comments is **4pm, 13 October 2017**. For any phone enquiries regarding these Consultation documents, please call the following numbers: (678) 27621 or (678) 27487.

For more information about TRR's Consultation Guidelines, please visit the following website - <https://www.trr.vu/en/public-register/guidelines/consultation-guideline>

You are welcome to visit our website <https://www.trr.vu> for more details on the latest developments in the telecommunication services industry and other related regulatory matters.

2. INTRODUCTION

This briefing paper is prepared for the TRR stakeholders and the Vanuatu internet communities for discussion and consideration of the intended future arrangement and management of .vu country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD).

It provides background information of some .vu domain name issues, areas of concern identified and actions taken by Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR) to date, and current administration issues and views. Additionally, it includes discussions on the significance of, and need for, establishing an appropriate ccTLD model and its policies or regulatory framework for managing and administering “.vu” Internet domain names and the associated domain name systems’ technical infrastructure.

3. BACKGROUND

TRR has the authority to make arrangements for the proper and appropriate management and administration of the country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) name for Vanuatu – that is for .vu ccTLD. Pursuant to its powers under the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulation Act 2009 (“the Act”), Section 7(4)(e) and the Domain Management and Administration Regulation order No. 206 of 2016.

Until TRR makes suitable arrangements, the management of the country code is still with Telecom Vanuatu Limited (TVL) in continuation of the role it had as the single operator within Vanuatu, pursuant with its arrangement with the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). TRR acknowledges the good work that TVL has done so far as manager responsible (both Registry and Registrar), but in a liberalized and competitive market it is now time for the management function to be fully supervised with appropriate regulatory framework by the independent regulator, TRR.

Under guidelines developed by ICANN, a country’s ccTLD and its Internet domains names are treated as public resources which must be managed to best serve the internet community. Organizations and individuals applying for the use of a domain for a period of time (generally one year), are subject to certain technical, legal and policy or regulatory requirements, as are the organizations providing domain registration services to the public.

4. EXISTING AND WAY FORWARD REGULATORY ACTIONS ON MANAGEMENT OF .VU

TRR has already consulted on the matter of .vu ccTLD management previously and the Domain Name Management and Administration Regulation was finalized and gazette in December 2016. TRR has also had the benefit of a number of discussions with TVL, as the current Registry operator, on how management of the ccTLD might develop in future. TRR has therefore developed various draft policies that highlighted the roles and responsibilities of the various participants in the domain management process, and of the procedures that shall generally apply. The draft Policies are attached for public consultation as Annex B.

5. REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TRR considers that the draft Policies at Annex B provides appropriate arrangements for the management and administration of .vu ccTLD for a number of reasons listed in the Regulatory Impact Assessment Table below.

	Aspect	Under the status quo (i.e. with no additional regulation or Policies)	Under the current drafted Policies linking to .vu Regulation
1	Regulatory Policy Guide for appropriate approach on management and administration of .vu for a Registry and or Registrar Services.	(-)There are no Vanuatu specific arrangements, in place at present to guide both the Registry and a Registrar to provide required domain services.	<p>(+) The proposed separation of Registry and Registrar roles is necessary for overall good administration and is clearly provided for both the Registry and Registrars.</p> <p>(+) The arrangements will facilitate achieving the following benefits and goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable management and operation of .vu domain names; • Promoting .vu domain market growth and optimum utilization of the .vu Internet name space; • Promoting growth and development of ICTs in Vanuatu and addressing “digital divide” problems; • Nurturing and extending indigenous Internet expertise and promoting Internet usage and computer literacy; • Improving interaction with the wider Internet community through participation in technical and policy fora such as ICANN, WSIS activities, IGF, IETF, Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) e.g. Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and regional top level domain associations e.g. Asia Pacific Top Level Domain; • Improved quality, diversity and safety of Vanuatu’s Internet infrastructure.

2	Addressing Telecommunications/ICT services liberalization leading to a competitive market environment	(-) The current arrangement is potentially anti-competitive.	<p>(+) The Policy guidelines will assist on providing guidance on respective functions for both Registry and Registrars which will also contribute to assist ICT Business organizations to do businesses on .vu in a competitive market environment.</p> <p>(+) The .vu ccTLD must be managed as a public resource on behalf of the local internet community based on accepted international best practices hence the need to separate the role of Registry and the Registrar.</p>
3	Management and Administration of .vu	<p>(+) TRR has the mandate under the act to develop management and administration regulatory framework including regulations to Manage and Administer .vu ccTLD.</p> <p>(-) TVL still has full control of both the Registry and Registrar services.</p>	<p>(+) As per the TRR Regulation order 206 of 2016, TRR has the function to play on ensuring the .vu name space is appropriately managed by both the Registry and the Registrar service providers.</p> <p>(+) The current .vu ccTLD Regulation allowed for the separation of Registry and Registrar functions.</p>
4	Promote more uptake on .vu ccTLD market services	<p>(-) Only one sole Registrar that markets the .vu ccTLD domains so the market is limited and consumers (Registrants) don't have a choice to go to.</p> <p>(-) there are resellers which are not appropriately monitored on their services provided to Registrants.</p>	<p>(+) The available Regulatory framework including these policies will allow having more Registrars to grow the .vu market.</p> <p>(+) The Policies will guide each Registrar provider on what is expected at the Regulatory perspective.</p>
5	Improving interaction with international internet community	(-) Previously not much interaction with the outside internet community including	(+) Once the Policies are in place, they will align and guide all Operators (Registry and Registrars) to meet

		international recognized organizations such ICANN meetings and other required meetings on the matter of .vu ccTLD given internet is a global service.	the international standard expected. (+) Given the mandate as per the TRR Act, TRR is making sure that the management and administration of .vu ccTLD meets the international expectations and required standards promoted by the internet organizations such as ICANN, IGF and APNIC.
6	Addressing cyber-attack in the management of .vu ccTLD	(-) No appropriate regulatory and strong requirements to secure the .vu ccTLD with DNSSEC.	(+) TRR has the role to follow up with the Registry on international best practice standards that need to be implemented by the Registry to ensure cybersecurity in the .vu Domain Space.

6. ANNEX A – CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with the proposed new ccTLD Policies, and why/why not?
2. If not, what kind of .vu ccTLD Structure and regulatory framework would you like to see implemented instead?
3. What do you see are potential risks, if any, of TRR's preferred approach?
4. Do you have any other comments on specific provisions in the draft Policies at Annex B? Please cite the Policy title and number of the section concerned when making comments.
5. Has TRR covered all relevant aspects in the draft Policies? If not, please outline additional provisions that should be included.

7. ANNEX B – TRR ISSUED DRAFT POLICIES