GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

OFFICE OF THE VANUATU TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATOR

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Port Vila, 3rd March 2011

Press Release

Government seeks publics views on embracing ICT services to deliver better services to all its citizens throughout the entire community.

A draft National Policy on the use and application of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) services has been produced by a cross sectional group drawn from Ministries and the office of the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator.

Mr Jotham Napat, Acting DG, Ministry for Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MIPU) who has chaired the group stated "The National ICT Services Policy sets out the goals and objectives for the delivery of information and communication technology (ICT) services throughout Vanuatu. It will form the basis for the development and use of ICT services in Vanuatu for 2011 – 2013."

Mr Napat went onto say "The vision set out in the Policy is "ICT for all". We aim to use ICT as a tool to create jobs, put more food on everyone's table, provides more opportunities to our people, give our children a better education, enhance health services to all people, educate all people about environment and climate change issues, and secure a brighter future for everyone."

To enact on the vision the group have set out 7 Goals covering Access and Affordability of Communications, Human Resource Development, Economic Growth Social Development, Environmental support, Good Governance and Legal Framework &Security.

The Vanuatu Telecommunications & Radio Communications Regulator (TRR), acting in it's capacity of advising the Minister on policy matters is coordinating the Public Consultation.

This Draft ICT Services Policy was developed based on the output from the International Telecommunications Union and European Commission (ITU-EC) project for the Pacific Island countries (ICB4PAC) of which Vanuatu has been a member. The ICT Services policy will allow Vanuatu to participate in a rapidly changing world. It is an inherently democratic and empowering force that presents an unparalleled opportunity to improve the free flow of information and ideas not only in Vanuatu but around the world.

Alan Horne, the Telecom Regulator stated "Through implementing the ICT Services Policy Vanuatu intends to embrace ICT services to deliver better services to all its citizens throughout the entire community. A digitally connected society also comes with its own challenges and threats. It is therefore essential that laws and regulations are put in place to protect individuals, the community and businesses against cyber-crimes and inappropriate online content and behaviour."

A public workshop will be held in Port-Vila, Efate on the 1st March at Fare House, USP, Emalus Campus and on the 10th March in Luganville at VNPF. The objective of the public workshops is to support consumers, industry stakeholders, policy experts and other interested parties prepare their views on the draft Policy.

The Public is being asked to comment on the seven Goals, Policies and associated objectives set out in this Draft Policy. A Questionnaire for interested parties is attached to the Policy which can be found on the TRR web site www.telecomregulator.gov.vu or picked up from their Office on the 2nd floor, Transpacific House, Lini Highway. Copies will also be available at the public workshops.

Comments can be submitted by filling in a response form attached in the Appendix and emailed to consult@telecomregulator.gov.vu for the attention of the Telecom Regulator or delivered to Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator, P.O. Box 3547, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

Comments should be submitted before 4p.m. on the 21st March 2011

For more information contact Ms. Dalsie Baniala, Manager of Consumer, Communications, Finance & Administration on 27621 or 27440 or dalsie.baniala@telecomregulator.gov.vu