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The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu

Cybersecurity Initiatives

Telecommunications & Radiocommunications Regulator

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Agenda

- **Background (Cybersecurity)**
- **TRR Cybersecurity Initiatives**
- **Challenges**
- **Opportunities**

Background



What is Cybersecurity?

- Encompasses all the necessary elements required to defend and respond to cyberthreats in cyberspace e.g. policies, guidelines, actions, remedies, training and risk management assessment.



Examples of Cyberthreats

- Spam, Phishing, Computer-related Fraud, Computer hacking, Identity theft, Illegal access/interception of data, Malware – virus, Trojans, spyware, Adware, spoofing attacks, Cyberbullying, Inappropriate content to minors/children.

Background

- **Purpose:** The National Cybersecurity Policy sets out the Vision, Goals and Objectives for the Republic of Vanuatu in maximizing safety and security in relation to the use of information and communication technology (ICT). **Policy document link -**
<http://ogcio.gov.vu/Cybersecurity%20Policy/Cybersecurity-Policy-EN-FR-BI.pdf>
- **Vision:** For the citizens of Vanuatu, tourists, businesses and government to enjoy the full benefits of a safe, secure and resilient cyberspace enabling them to get access to knowledge and share information while understanding and addressing the risks, to reduce the benefits to criminals.

Background

Cybersecurity Policy Goals:

- Goal 1 - Develop the necessary organizational structures
- Goal 2 - Standardization and services
- Goal 3 - Strengthening the legal framework
- Goal 4 - Capacity building
- Goal 5 - International cooperation



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Goal 1: Develop the necessary organizational structures - Objective 5

- Create a child online protection working group (COPWG) to identify areas of child online protection (such as technical protection measures, curriculums for school and information material for parents and guardians) that need to be integrated in Vanuatu.



Why is COP important for Vanuatu?

- Children are susceptible to the risks and dangers of the Internet; **Vanuatu ratified UN Convention on Rights of the Child;**
- UAP - Roll out to rural areas: 98% coverage AND Connecting Schools; Internet Cafes; Tablets for students;
- National ICT Policy - Reach community through education;
- ICT is the enabler and facilitator; **however, more children will be exposed to harmful effects too!**

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First Pacific Islands Capacity Building Workshop on Child Online Protection (COP) and the Commonwealth National Cybersecurity Framework

- 22 to 26 Sep 2014, Le Lagon, Port Vila;
- COP regional & local stakeholders from GoV, NGO, Legal sector, Law enforcement, Regulators;
- 5 Pillars: legal measures, technical and procedural measures, organizational structure, capacity building and international cooperation;
- **Outcome → Vanuatu draft COP Strategy Framework**



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Goal 1: Develop the necessary organizational structures – Objective 8

- To carry out a coordinated survey and assessment, to analyse how far citizens, businesses and government are affected by Cybersecurity incidents and Cybercrime.



Why a COP Assessment for Vanuatu?

- Key driver COP Assessment - to examine how students in Vanuatu access the Internet and which risks they are facing;
- Taking into account that there is almost no data available regarding the number of victims of Cybercrime in Vanuatu;
- Develop appropriate supporting mechanisms to address COP issues in Vanuatu.

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Vanuatu Child Online Protection Assessment



- ITU's ICB4PAC Project;
- April 2013, Central School, Port Vila - 294 students participated in the survey;
- Basic trainings on Internet risks as well as protection strategies;
- **Outcome → Vanuatu COP Assessment Report**
- *Results (next slide)*

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Despite a comparably low Internet penetration rate in Vanuatu, out of the sample surveyed:

- Almost 90% use the Internet;
- Around 30% use the Internet daily;
- Almost 50% use Facebook - most popular;
- Almost 60% are faced with infection of ICT with malicious software;
- Only 21% use anti-virus software;
- $\frac{1}{3}$ learned about Cybersecurity in school. Students have been exposed to Cybercrime;
- 15% of the students in Vanuatu have been victim of Cyberbullying;
- Almost 10% have been contacted by strangers online;
- Around 10% have encountered illegal/inappropriate acts online or sent mean/harmful messages (cyberbullying);
- Around $\frac{1}{3}$ tried or successfully broke into protected wireless networks.



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Goal 3: Strengthening the legal framework Objective 1

- Review of the existing legislation related to Cybersecurity and Cybercrime - includes definitions, penal legislation, investigation instruments of law enforcement, admissibility of electronic evidence, specific provision to protect children online and international cooperation.
- Currently in progress;
- TRR plays a supporting role to OGCIO on this aspect.



Challenges

- **Speed of ICT developments in the World & Vanuatu posing increasing problems:**
 - We have little chance of prosecuting cybercrimes (inclusive of offences such as child pornography?);
 - No legislation YET for cybercrime - but being developed;
 - Various initiatives of Cybersecurity - we MUST have harmonization and co-ordination to be effective and conserve precious resources and efforts;
 - No national strategy or multi-stakeholder approach to Cybersecurity - yet; Opportunity is there.
 - Lack of experts in the area on 'Cybersecurity' and 'Online' protection - yet;
 - Little or no formal education in Cybersecurity in schools, homes - a key area of focus.

Opportunities

- To develop a policy framework encompassing Cybersecurity, Child Online Protection, National ICT, and UAP Policies;
- For COP:
 - COP Workshop provides an impetus and stimulant – MUST build on this proactively!;
 - Multi-stakeholder approach to COP.
- Consumer awareness of cyberthreats, cybersecurity and cyberbullying AND benefits of ICT's;
- eSmart programs for schools in Vanuatu;
- Filtering at gateway of Internet Service Providers - technical measures aiming to block content that is not appropriate for children;
- SIM card restriction and blocking to inappropriate services for children.
- **Embrace technology for development BUT be safe and responsible users!**

Tankio Tumas