

Universal Access Policy



The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu

Agenda

- What is UAP?
- UAP Fund
- Play or Pay
- Universal Access Programs



Photo from a World Bank Report about “Vanuatu Telecommunications & ICT Technical Assistance Program” (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:22519515~menuPK:141310~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>)



What is UAP?

- UAP is aimed at reaching the last mile: unserved & underserved currently not available from current telecommunications operators
- Challenge exists in delivering these services to rural and remote parts of Vanuatu considering that Vanuatu is made up of 63 inhabited islands
- A vast majority of population must walk to specific locations (into the sea, up hills) and stay
- Policy approved by COM in November 2013

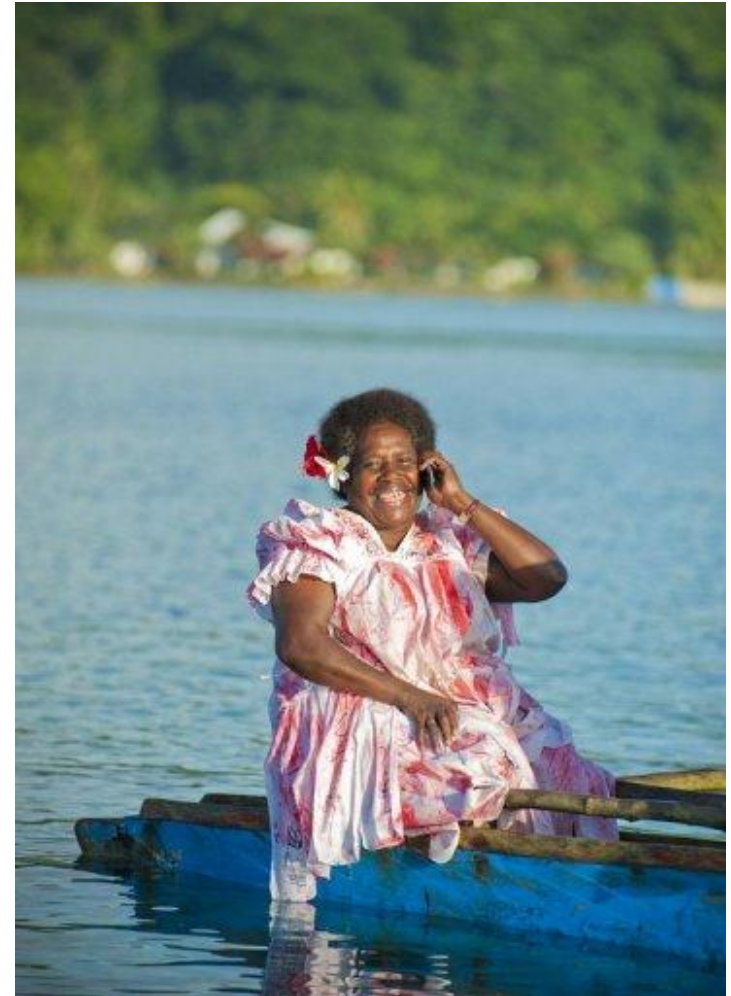


Photo from a phys.org Report about “
Mobile ‘revolution’ eases Pacific
isolation, poverty
([http://phys.org/news/2010-12-
mobile-revolution-eases-pacific-
isolation.html](http://phys.org/news/2010-12-mobile-revolution-eases-pacific-isolation.html))



UAP Targets

- Major objective is to achieve 98% of population coverage by 1st of January 2018 for the following telecoms services;
 - Voice Services
 - Narrowband Data Services including text messaging
 - Broadband(BB) Internet Services with download speed of at least 21 Mbps and upload speed of at least 12 Mbps
- Services must be available to school facilities, health facilities and public offices
- UAP Fund will allow us to support the UAP by providing access to unserved and under-served areas



UAP Fund

- Trust fund set up by the Minister
- Administered by TRR as trustee
- Currently UAP Fund contains Australian Aid & TRR funding
- Any entity can contribute to the fund including operators(licensees)
- TRR can levy licensees up to 4% of net revenue
- Levy applies annually from 1st of July to 30th June of the forthcoming year and goes into the UAP Fund



Play or Pay

- Policy has a ‘Play’ (agree with operators on an approach that will achieve Policy objectives) or ‘Pay’ (collect a levy) approach
- “Players” will rollout services to identified unserved areas at their own cost, to meet their UAP obligations under their licenses and the Telecommunications Act.
- Licensees who are not “playing” are “paying”; up to 4% levy will be imposed to “Payers”
- The 2 key operators Digicel & TVL fully support UAP & have committed as “Players”
- “Payers” will assist Digicel & TVL (& GOV & TRR) to meet all UAP requirements & deliverables
- Combined approach being taken – all will contribute to achieve the 98% goal – and we may achieve more!
- There are various streams of Universal Access: ‘Play or Pay’ is a key driver, others includes the Universal Access Programs



Universal Access Programs

- Up to 60 Million vatu set aside to help ICT access and education in schools to be split into two programs:
 - School Based Computer Labs and Internet Community Center (CLICC)
 - Tablets for Students Program



Internet Café Support (ICS) Program

- Up to 10 Million vatu set aside to help businesses set up an internet café.



CLICC

OBJECTIVE

Obtain effective and usable internet services to expand availability of internet to the people of Vanuatu. Provide schools with ICT resources to facilitate students learning and teachers support.

FUNDING

Up to 50 Million Vatu

TARGET

Connect up to 15 schools who can provide access to the school and surrounding communities

NOTES

Program will vary based on requirements submitted by schools and in-kind donations provided by the schools



Tablets for Students

OBJECTIVE

Assist school students by providing electronic tablets to be used as an educational tool to support learning

FUNDING

Up to 10 Million Vatu

TARGET

Up to 1000 tablets in total for distribution to successful schools

NOTES

These tablets will contain appropriate educational content to facilitate students learning and provide teachers support.



Internet Café Support

- OBJECTIVE** To assist in establishing public internet access points, making access to the internet effectively available to the residents of Vanuatu
- FUNDING** Up to 10 Million Vatu
- TARGET** Support setup of up to 10 internet café
- NOTES** Funding support will be given to each businesses to assist setup a internet café.



Who can apply?

- All Schools (ECE, Primary, Secondary, RTCs, vocational training institutions)
- We want teachers who are passionate about the use of technology in the classroom to apply.
- Existing businesses who wish to expand their business to ICT in setting up a community internet cafe
- [Programs flyer](#)
- [Sample flyer describing the TFS program.](#)
- [Sample application form](#)
- [Program information](#)



Application Process

- All interested Schools & businesses must apply
- Grant Application Forms were launched 19th May 2014
- All applications must be submitted to TRR before the closing deadline 18th of July 2014
- Grant Review Committee(GRC) will assess, evaluate applications and select the successful schools
- Site survey will be conducted to verify school/businesses requirement and finalize beneficiaries under each program
- Unsuccessful applicants will be further developed for future programs – remember UAP objective is to get to 98% of schools, health, public offices – general population



Benefits & Examples (some)

- Advanced business activities through access to ICT's
- E-learning – get certificates online (<https://www.coursera.org/>)
- Lesser need to travel – E-banking / Mobile banking (<https://online.nbv.vu/ut:login>)
- Wider access to information at your finger tips
 - Air Vanuatu domestic flight schedule (https://www.airvanuatu.com/media/63664/domestic_schedule_-_7_apr_-_29_jun_14.pdf)
 - Weather updates / Cyclone tracking (<http://www.meteo.gov.vu/MapsandCharts/LatestVanuatuGroupChart/tabid/83/Default.aspx>)
 - [Google Earth](#)
 - [Other useful websites](#)
- Instant Support / Communications
 - Skype
 - Use of search engines (Google, Yahoo, etc)



Expected Outcomes

- Increased ICT usage in schools & communities will drive demand and assist in widened education
- Improved use of ICT's, particularly mobile broadband, will greatly contribute to Vanuatu's economy & growth
- Connecting those that do not currently have access to existing services will derive social & economic value & benefit & bridge the current digital divide gap – 'equality'
- By January 2018, 98% of Vanuatu's population will have access to not just mobile voice but also broadband services – particularly the internet
- Increased consumer benefits for rural & remote users: faster speeds & lower costs, enhanced products & services, with educational, medical & social benefits
- Advanced business activities through access to ICT's



Thank you!

