

Teacher says launching of Mobile network does not fully solve the communication problem

By Glenda Shing

A SECONDARY TEACHER OF Ishia Junior Secondary School on Futuna said the launching of the TVL mobile network on his island does not fully answer the communication needs for the people of Futuna.

Mr Tamasui Meitai related to Daily Post that for the last several years, with the only telephone landline on Herald Bay, villagers from Matangi and Yesoah had to walk long distances to Harold Bay to use the phone. Unfortunately, the landline telephone got disconnected in September

2011, so messages were sent via plane and Teleradio.

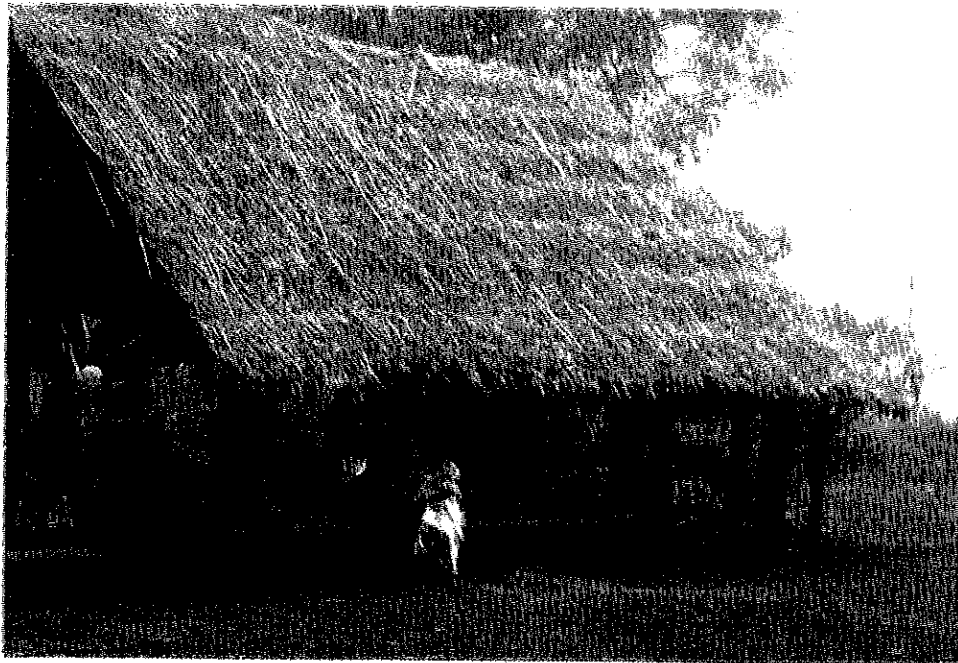
According to the teacher, even though TVL launched its mobile network, the people from Matangi and Yesoah would still have to walk to Harold Bay to use their mobile phones, as the network coverage does not reach their areas.

"The latest development that we witnessed today is more like a replacement of the landline, but does not really solve the communication problem that the people have been facing in the past", the teacher said.

The teacher however, agreed that with access to mobile phones, the people would benefit a lot from it, especially the businessmen, as well as the schools.

Mr Meitai said they were fortunate that the tower was stationed closer to the school, so they could benefit from its services, for instance, having connection to the internet.

The Secondary school teacher said he is sure the coverage would be extended to other parts of the island in the future and thanked TVL for launching their mobile service on their island.



Tatch house which used to accommodate the landline telephone. The old TVL mast is seen next to the tatch house.