



# Merelava and Hiu now Connected to the World

Tasvare Primary School in Merelava, Banks, and Martin Primary School in Hiu, both in TORBA Province, now have access to high speed internet, through technical and financial assistance provided by the Office of the Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR), as part of the Computer Laboratory and Internet Community Centre (CLICC) Program.

It took a week for Jean Paul Malessy (TRBR Officer), Peter Meltetake (Telsat officer) and Mendra Televan (PCS officer) to assist in setting up the two sites to enable the teachers, students and the two local communities to connect to the world.

According to Mr Malessy, more than hundred (100) students from Tasvare primary school in Merelava and Martin primary school in Hiu can now have access to reliable Internet for the first time.

'It is a safe and secure internet access model, that TRBR provides for these two primary schools, and that model could be replicated in other schools in the country', Mr Malessy explained during the launching ceremony.

TRBR's Universal Access and Service Coordinator, Hanson Waki stated that the realisation of this project was purposely to improve coverage and give opportunity to students and their teachers to have access to internet for their academic research programs, and these schools can now access the Vanuatu Educational Management Information System (VEMIS), and be able to feed information into the VEMIS database as required by the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET). Such benefit will also have a positive impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of decision making in relation to the school development.

She continued to explain that under Vanuatu's Universal Access Policy (UAP), two projects were designed under the principle that schools can be hubs for community Internet access. These were the Computer Laboratory and Internet Community Centre (CLICC) and the Tablet for Schools (TFS) project. 'The two computer labs in TORBA province were part of the CLICC project' Mrs Waki confirmed.

Nineteen (19) schools throughout Vanuatu have already benefited from the CLICC project, since it was launched in 2015.



*Teachers from Tasvare and Lequel Primary schools in Merelava during a basic training session*



*Capturing the First Ever Call on IMO APP in Hiu on Torress Island in Torba Province*

# TRAI signs Letter of Intent with TRBR

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR) of Vanuatu in New Delhi, India on 10th October 2019.

TRBR was represented at the signing event by the Manager of Consumer Affairs, Monitoring and Market Competition, Mr. Graham Theuil, on behalf of TRBR Regulator Mr Brian Winji who could not attend this event, due to his other official commitments.

In his remarks, the Chair of TRAI, Dr. Ram Sewak Sharma (R.S Sharma) stated that the signing of this Letter of Intent will initiate Technical cooperation with TRBR, and to provide capacity building of TRBR staff in the field of Telecommunications and Broadcasting and to further improve collaboration between the two institutions.

TRBR Regulator Mr Brian Winji described the event as a major achievement for TRBR as Vanuatu is the first country in the Pacific region to sign a regulatory international agreement with TRAI to establish collaboration between the two institutions in the matters related to telecommunications, radiocommunications and broadcasting.

TRBR Vision is a communication environment that enriches the social, cultural, customs and commercial fabric of Vanuatu, and its Mission is to develop a competition led market for the provision of innovative information and communications services, available to all, which: **encourages** sustainable, economically efficient investment; **respects** the interests of consumers; **fosters** ecologically friendly initiatives; and **supports** the social, cultural, customs and commercial welfare of Vanuatu.

The Vanuatu delegation at the signing event consisted of Mr Theuil Kalsakau, Mr George Hapsai, Senior Consumer and Compliance officer and Evelyne Toa, Broadcasting and Media Regulatory Officer



*Members of TRAI and TRBR during the signing agreement*