

Session 4: Digital Terrestrial TV, DTT, and Digital Dividend, DD: Switchover and 700 MHz band

Panel Discussion, Apia Samoa
Date: 22th September 2016



The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu



Telecommunications &
Radiocommunications
Regulator

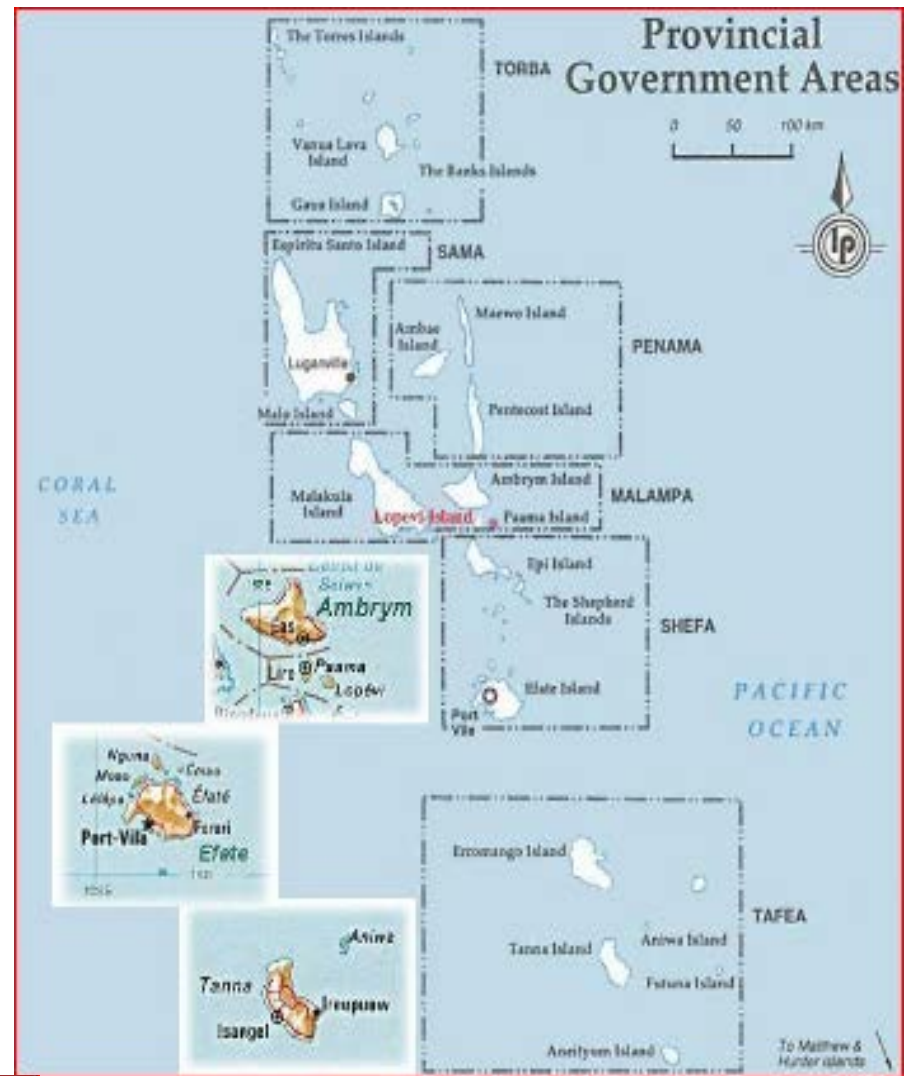
Topics

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About Vanuatu

- Vanuatu is a tropical country and is made up of 83 islands-63 islands are inhabited (located in the South West Pacific);
- 285,338 population and total land area of 12,189 square kilometres;
- Has over 100 languages;
- Official languages are French, English and Bislama;
- The country is Divided into 6 Provinces;
- 75% living in Rural Areas and 25% in Urban Areas;
- **Vanuatu is a tropical country and is prone to very strong cyclones.**
- **Vanuatu is located on the “Ring of fire” and on top of the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates- therefore prone to earthquakes**



Telecommunications

- 8 Telecommunication Licensees;
 - 2 provide 2.5G and 3G+ services
 - Currently 2 provide LTE services
 - 8 provide internet services
 - 3 are have also international gateway
 - 2 provide Fixed network
- 7 Exception Licenses;
- Coverage is 93% of population country wide-and is mainly 2.5G and 3G+



Analog and the Switch Over

- There are 3 analog TV broadcast stations in Vanuatu
- Government working in cooperation with a Chinese company " Vanuamadia media limited" to upgrade National Television (VBTC) services, thus accommodate the switch over from analog to digital TV.
- Analog TV stations in Vanuatu originally operates in the VHF band; therefore with this switch over a lot of the bands use for analog TV will be available for reallocation.
- The Switch over is due 15th October 2016



Digital Televisions in Vanuatu

- 5 Operators running Digital TV services starting 15 October 2016, in Vanuatu including the newly added ones
- UHF band is allocated for Digital Television in Vanuatu



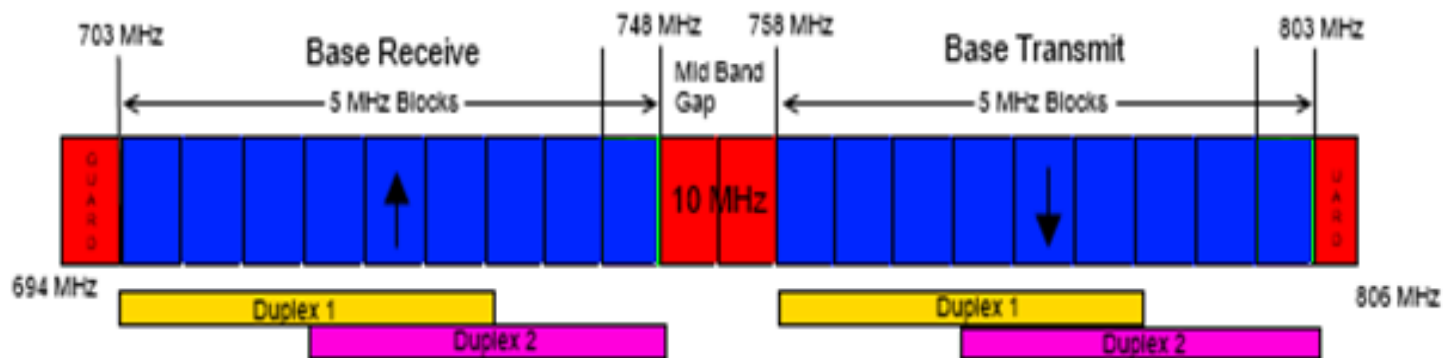
Bridging the Digital Divide

- Government UAP (universal Access Policy) to have 98% of Vanuatu Population have access to Internet and voice communication by the end of 2018
- First round is now completed, 20 sites have been installed, second round is underway starting mid November
- Universal Access Policy-implement the Pay or play system with major operators (no funding from the Government and 100% funding from the operators)



700 MHz band plan introduce by TRR

- Vanuatu plans is to use the 700 MHz band for LTE/4G services
- See below is the band plan for allocation



Consultations and outcome on the 700 MHz

- Expression of Interests were received from 3 operators on the 700 MHz band. TRR decisions is to:
 - Equally distribute the bandwidth to the three operators.
 - Allocate on a use or lose it basis.
 - 700 MHz band will attract spectrum fees



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