

**GOVERNEMENT DE LA  
REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU**  
**Autorité Réglementaire  
d'Utilités**  
**Ministère des Finances  
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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**  
**Utilities Regulatory Authority  
of Vanuatu**  
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### *Utilities Regulatory Authority of Vanuatu*

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#### **Reduction in electricity tariff for August 2009**

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) of Vanuatu wishes to inform all electricity customers of UNELCO that there will be a one-off reduction of electricity tariffs for the month of August 2009.

The reduction is the result of a tax rebate to UNELCO from over-paid duties on fuel imports, totaling 33.6 million vatu.

The URA has approved the passing through of this rebate by UNELCO to all its electricity customers through a reduced electricity tariff for the month of August 2009, after which time the tariff will be calculated as required under the Concession agreement.

From 1 January 2009, UNELCO was made exempt from fuel import duties, with the aim of bringing down electricity costs for electricity users. However, due to communication issues, fuel import excise continued to be charged on UNELCO until 30 April 2009. The total amount over-charged was 33.6 million vatu.

In becoming aware of the issue, UNELCO immediately informed the URA and the decision was made to pass this rebate through to electricity users in a one-off reduction in electricity prices for the month of August 2009.

The URA notes UNELCO's cooperation and transparency in the way in which it has handled this issue which will enable customers to benefit from the tax rebate.

The primary objective of the URA is to protect the long-term interests of Vanuatu's consumers with regard to the price, quality and reliability of regulated services.

Furthermore, it is the task of the URA to inform the public on all matters relating to water and electricity services, and ensure the transparency of decisions.

If you have any further information regarding the above please contact the URA through our website [www.ura.gov.vu](http://www.ura.gov.vu), contacting us by telephone (+678) 23335, fax (+678) 27426, email: [tmael@vanuatu.gov.vu](mailto:tmael@vanuatu.gov.vu) or writing to us at: Office of Utilities Regulatory Authority, PMB 9093, Port Vila, Vanuatu.