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### **URA approves pre-payment meters for Port Vila**

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) has published its final decision for a new pre-payment meter scheme for electricity customers in Port Vila. In determining the final decision, the Authority worked closely with UNELCO to review the proposed prepayment meter system and also facilitated an extensive consultation process with customers and the public.

The URA approves the proposal by UNELCO to install the new prepayment meter system for the Port Vila Concession. The approval is subject to certain conditions, including ensuring a plan for good customer training on the new system.

Romney Marum, Project Manager at the URA, said “We have worked extensively with UNELCO over the last few months to ensure the proposed system is safe, fair and good value for electricity customers.”

“The Authority collected a large amount of information to support the fact that the system is safe and has good value”, said Lizzie Taura, Manager Regulation at the URA. Ms Taura added, “Despite the complexity of certain aspects of the system, the Authority discovered through the public consultation that most people still find the system to be fair”.

The URA Chairman, Mr Johnson Naviti said “While the process took some time, we are pleased that the Authority has finally come to a decision which ensures that the interest of all stakeholders is adequately addressed”.

Full details of the final decision can be obtained from the URA website, [www.ura.gov.vu](http://www.ura.gov.vu) . Copies of the final decision are also available from their office on the ground floor of the VNPF building.

## **About the Utilities Regulatory Authority**

The URA was set up under the Utilities Regulatory Authority Act No. 11 of 2007. The Authority acts independently of the Government and its primary purpose is to increase access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity and water services, and to protect the long-term interests of consumers throughout Vanuatu. In the electricity sector, the Authority monitors the concessions operated by UNELCO in Malekula, Port Vila and Tanna; and Vanuatu Utilities and Infrastructure Ltd (VUI) in Luganville. In addition, the Authority manages consumer disputes and advises the Government on matters related to electricity and water. It also reviews tariffs under the rules of the Concessions Agreements and relevant legislation.

### **Contact Information**

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