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URA extends consultation on Prepayment Meter Decision

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) is extending the consultation period on its draft decision on prepayment meters to 31 March 2013.

On 30 September 2012, the Authority released its draft decision on the prepayment meter system that UNELCO proposed to implement in Vanuatu. In this draft decision, the URA highlighted major issues that UNELCO was to address.

During consultations between UNELCO and the URA after the release of the draft decision, UNELCO stated that the major issues identified by the URA required extensive work and could not be addressed within the initial consultation timeframe.

In order to provide a reasonable response to these issues, the Authority in consultation with UNELCO agreed to extend the consultation period.

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.

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