

GOUVERNEMENT DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU VANUATU

Autorité de Régulation des Services Publics  
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## Media Release: 2 February 2012

### URA Welcomes New Manager Regulation

The Utilities Regulatory Authority (URA) is proud to inform all its stakeholders of the appointment of Ms. Lizzie Marguerite Taura as Manager Regulation as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2011.

The Authority's Chairperson Johnson Naviti said: "We opened this position last year as the workload was increasing and we had been thinking about the future of the URA. We knew we wanted a highly qualified Ni Vanuatu who would be able to grow within the corporation. We were glad to see the quality of the candidates who applied for this new position. Ms. Taura, born on Efate, stood out because she has almost completed a postgraduate Masters in Economics for Competition Law, and used to be the Market, Competition & Legal Affairs Manager for the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR). She also wants to learn and further her career."

As the Authority's Manager Regulation, Ms. Taura monitors and evaluates the technical performance of water and electricity utilities. For example, she assesses whether utilities comply with the safety and reliability standards set by Vanuatu's laws and the URA.

She also ensures that the work of consultants is effectively and efficiently delivered.

She manages the local staff to ensure that the Authority achieves its objectives, such as protecting the long-term interests of consumers and building capacity in the regulatory field in Vanuatu.

Ms Taura said: "Regulation is a new area in the Pacific; few women are working in this field. I believe that having women in regulatory positions is a key objective for balance in our nation. As Vanuatu's economic regulator of electricity and water services, the URA ensures that the public interest is met. I believe people are best served by a regulatory body that is representative of the public. Ni Vanuatu women should strive to succeed in high-level positions and in technical fields."

She added: "My work for TRR made me a more productive citizen; for example, ensuring that the players in the telecoms market were not behaving anti-competitively and overseeing the legal department for compliance purposes. Participating in region-wide capacity building trainings for regulators has broadened my knowledge in this field and allowed me to understand the importance of

continuous learning. I hope to learn even more in my new role, and also support my compatriots' development."

The Authority's Commission welcomes Ms. Taura on board and is looking forward to all stakeholders' cooperation as she carries out her duties.

### **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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