

VANUATU'S EXPERIENCE & RESPONSE TO COVID-19



Unexpected Visitor

- COVID-19 arrived unexpectedly.
- Though no reported cases to date, Vanuatu took preventative measures that impacted everyone.



COVID-19 Preventative Measures

- Declaration of state of emergency 26/03/20 - Curfew
- International Border lock down
- Ban on inter-island travelling
- Social distancing
- Ban on social gathering
- Schools & Churches closed



COVID-19 Impact

- Economic impact - businesses closed (tourism industry hardest hit)
- International and inter-island travels affected
- Businesses resorted to teleworking, resulting in huge demand for
 1. Internet access
 2. Laptops
 3. Online Meetings/Video Conference
 4. VPN
- Schools closed leading to demand for online learning (Schools not prepared to provide online learning).
- Churches closed - only a handful of Churches were able to provide online worship services via video streaming.
- ISPs inundated with requests for new internet connections, seemed to have led to tremendous strain on 4G Networks in urban centers.
- Bandwidth increase on international links
- Bulk purchase of laptops from local suppliers



COVID-19 Response

- Schools provided home-school packages
- Few schools have setup online learning modules however not all students have laptops/tablets/internet access
- A few Churches were able to livestream services online (FB, YT)
- Businesses setup teleworking for employees to work from home - not everyone has laptops & fast internet.
- Travel restrictions led to increased online meetings
- ISPs offered special internet plans during COVID-19

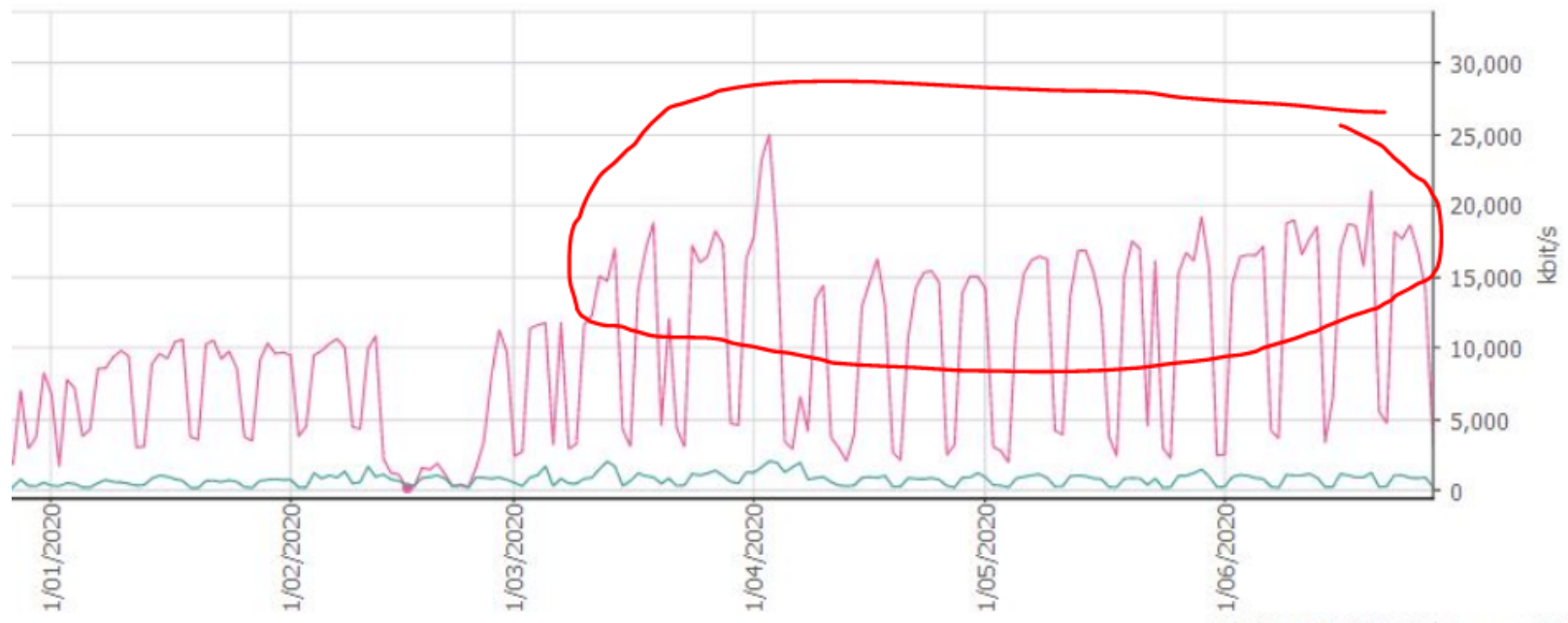


OGCIO's COVID-19 Response

- Setup VPN for Govt. users to work remotely
- Setup VoIP sip client and Video Conf. software on Govt. users' laptops/smartphones
- Assist various Govt. agencies to host online meetings via video conference.
- COVID-19 website (<https://covid19.gov.vu/>)
- Setup hotline for
 1. COVID-19 (NDMO)
 2. Education Department
 3. Health Department
 4. Women's Affairs Department
- Assisted Court house to setup video conference facility inside Courtrooms to enable remote judges to manage local court sessions.
- Assisted Foreign Affairs to setup video conference facility for all VU Consulate offices overseas
- Currently assisting Vila Central Hospital(VCH) to setup telemedicine/video conf. facility at VCH



VU Govt. IXP Traffic



Vanuatu Appeals Court Session via Video Conference



noticeable changes since covid-19

- More virtual meetings/video conferences
- More people use VPNs now
- Increase in IXP traffic
- More people online
- Increase in number of internet connections
- More livestream events
- Bandwidth increase on international links



Conclusion

- COVID-19 forced everyone to using technology to counter the effects of COVID-19 preventative measures

