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Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL)

For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS BILL

CASTRIES, 8th November, 2010 - The Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL) will convene a national public awareness and consultation campaign on a new draft Electronic Communications bill, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday November 23rd. The consultation will be held at the National Insurance Service conference room from 9.00 a.m. This is the first in a series to be held in all the Member States of ECTEL within the next few months.

The objectives of the consultation are to discuss the provisions of the new draft bill; facilitate feed back on the draft and to make recommendations on issues to be addressed in a new Bill. This exercise is in response to the changes which have occurred in the telecommunications and ICT sector during the first decade of operations of ECTEL and NTRC.

The main purpose of the new bill is to reform the current telecommunications legislation and to create an open and competitive communications environment. The new bill is designed to ensure that the current regulatory authority made up of ECTEL and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) has oversight of the ICT sector in an open, fair, independent and transparent manner.

Hon. Jerrol Thompson, Minister for Telecommunications, Science, Technology and Industry will deliver an address.

Presentations will be delivered by the staff of ECTEL and the NTRC on the role and functions of ECTEL and NTRC and the main features of the new draft bill.

Participants at the consultation will include, communications service providers, community based organizations as well as representatives of public and private sector agencies.

The new draft Electronic Communications bill is available at www.ectel.int

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