



PRESS RELEASE

Bridging the Digital Divide with CONNECTme NOW High-Speed Satellite Broadband Prepaid Service for Kampung Waluhu, Ranau, Sabah

Kuala Lumpur, 4 February 2021 - Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Sabah (KSTI), Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) and MEASAT Global Berhad (“MEASAT”) have successfully deployed CONNECTme NOW, community broadband via satellite to the villagers of Kampung Waluhu, Ranau, Sabah. The initiative arose following a recent incident involving several students who had to enter the forest and possibly encounter wild animals in their journey to get internet access for online learning in January 2021.

“The installation of CONNECTme NOW with the first 300GB sponsored by the Sabah State Government is an immediate solution for the community of Kampung Waluhu to ensure they are able to get internet coverage to access information and to aid them in their daily activities. The lack of internet connectivity is due to the limited radius of terrestrial broadband network in rural areas of Sabah and this forced villagers to search for specific locations to access broadband. While the construction of a telecommunication tower is a longer-term solution, this will take a long time for it to be completed as compared to broadband connectivity via satellite”, said YB Datuk Haji Yakub Khan, Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Sabah.

CONNECTme NOW is employing Very Small Aperture Terminal (“VSAT”) and High Throughput Satellite (HTS) technology and the service is delivered through a sustainable prepaid business model for rural broadband connectivity. With no contract or fixed monthly charges, subscribers only pay for what they use with Prepaid Access Code (PAC) vouchers at CONNECTme NOW community WiFi hotspots.

“We are very sympathetic to the students who places their lives at risk to get an internet network to attend online classes. I am glad that MEASAT’s CONNECTme NOW service is fast and nimble enough to be set up anywhere, bridging digital divide across our Sabah rural communities”, YB Datuk Haji Yakub Khan concluded.

“We are pleased to be able to provide CONNECTme NOW to the community of Kg Waluhu and help them overcome the challenges of broadband communication. While there is proactive focus by the Government on strengthening the existing terrestrial networks, it will still take a long time to upgrade connectivity in underserved areas. Satellite-based broadband services are the ideal, practical and immediate solution in providing connectivity to communities in rural areas and it can be ready in just a matter of days.” said Yau Chyong Lim, Chief Operating Officer, MEASAT.

CONNECTme NOW has been making waves in providing community-focused satellite broadband services to realize national broadband aspirations. Today, CONNECTme NOW is rapidly connecting the unconnected *Rakyat* with over 100,000 broadband connections nationwide for the *Rakyat* residing outside of 4G or terrestrial coverage, empowering rural communities to be part of the digital economy.

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MEASAT's ability to deliver High-Speed Satellite Broadband nationwide makes it a strategic partner to support the Government of Malaysia's aspirations with Jalinan Digital Negara (JENDELA), that aims to achieve 100% 4G coverage in populated areas. Recognizing the importance of access to communications and bridging the digital divide, MEASAT has recently invested RM1.2 billion to build its next generation satellite, MEASAT-3d to improve its support of cost-effective high-speed broadband with up to 100 Mbps speeds in areas without any terrestrial network to ensure no Malaysian is left behind in the digital age.

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About MEASAT/CONNECTme NOW

MEASAT is a premium supplier of communication and video services to leading broadcasters, Direct-To-Home (DTH) platforms and telecom operators. With capacity across five (5) communication satellites, MEASAT provides services to over 150 countries representing 80% of the world's population across Asia, Middle East, Africa, Europe and Australia.

MEASAT is recognized as the Rural Broadband Service Provider in Malaysia, through its CONNECTme NOW satellite broadband service. CONNECTme NOW is a high-speed WiFi Hotspot service leveraging on MEASAT's innovative satellite broadband system. It is best suited for public use in underserved or unserved areas in Malaysia. CONNECTme NOW users can access the Internet by purchasing Prepaid Access Codes (PAC) from Authorized Agents within their local communities. The PAC is priced cost-effectively in small packages to meet user needs and affordability without long contracts or high upfront fees.

Soon, the MEASAT fleet will be further strengthened with the addition of MEASAT-3d at 91.5°E in 2021/2022 which will support cost-effective high-speed broadband with up to 100 Mbps speeds in areas without any terrestrial network throughout Malaysia; increase video distribution capacity across the Asia Pacific region; and provide unrivalled in-orbit satellite redundancy for the region. For more information, please visit www.measat.com / www.connectmenow.my

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