

## **Public consultation on the Communications Bill 2012**

The Government is introducing a new law to replace the present Telecommunications Act 2004.

This new law will:

- a) encourage new investors to build networks and provide new and better communication services throughout Kiribati;
- b) provide detailed arrangements expected by aid donors for a Universal Access Fund that will help to pay for extending services into remote areas; and
- c) introduce effective arrangements for protecting the interests of communications users.

The Minister for Communications, Transport and Tourism Development, Hon Taberannang Timeon introduced the Communications Bill 2012 to the Maneaba ni Maungatabu for its First Reading in December 2012.

The Bill passed its First Reading and is now available for public comment and discussion. Following the public consultation and any amendments arising from the consultation, the Bill will be returned to the Maneaba ni Maungatabu for the Second Reading and passing into law in April 2013.

Interested members of the public are invited to obtain copies of the Bill and its supporting documents and to make written submissions about any aspect of the Bill.

Copies of the Bill and related documents can be obtained from the website of the Telecommunications Authority of Kiribati (TAK) at:

<http://www.tak.gov.ki>

Look for Communications Bill 2012 under the Main Menu.

Copies of the Bill and associated documents can also be obtained for the office of the Ministry for Communications, Transport and Tourism Development (MCTTD) in Betio.

In order to be considered public submissions should be in writing and submitted to the MCTTD office or by e-mail to [CommsBillSubmissions@mcttd.gov.ki](mailto:CommsBillSubmissions@mcttd.gov.ki) before the close of business on 28 February.