GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Contract Signed For Design And Construction Management Of Farmers' Reservoir

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In a significant step toward addressing the long-standing water access challenges for local farmers at Paraquita Bay and strengthening the Virgin Islands' food security, a contract was signed for Consultancy Services for Engineering Design and Construction Management of Water Mains and Civil Works for the Farmers' Reservoir on 13 May, 2025.

The contract, valued at $224,639.60, was awarded to Alvair Limited, following a Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) procurement method. It covers a 30-month consultancy, forming the second major activity in the design stage of the broader Farmers' Reservoir Project. The initiative is being funded by the Government of the Virgin Islands, with the Premier's Office as the Ministry Partner, and the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) as the lead implementing agency.

In his remarks, Premier of the Virgin Islands and Minister of Finance Dr. the Hon. Natalio Wheatley emphasized Government's commitment to moving from long-standing commitment to decisive action.

"One of the most persistent challenges for our farmers has been access to an adequate and reliable water supply. This issue has been discussed for years, but we are now taking decisive steps toward resolving it. This reservoir project will allow farmers to irrigate their crops more effectively, care for livestock, reduce losses, and increase production. If we want our local food producers to help us become more food secure, we must ensure they have the resources they need to thrive."

He continued, "Food security is not just a local issue but a global priority, especially in light of recent supply chain disruptions. Agriculture, like tourism and financial services, supports livelihoods and sustains our economy. That's why this project—and others like the Agricultural and Fisheries Complex and upcoming grant programmes—are vital investments in our future."

Speaking at the event, RDA Chief Executive Officer Anthony McMaster noted the strategic importance of the project in supporting both the local economy and the territory's food systems.

“This consultancy includes the validation of the proposed reservoir size, and the detailed design of the water mains required to transport water to the Paraquita Bay farmlands, along with all associated civil works. In addition to the design, the consultant will be responsible for managing the implementation of the pipelines and related construction activities, ensuring that all works are executed in accordance with the approved design specifications and requirements.”

McMaster thanked the Premier for appropriating the necessary funding and recognized the role of the former Junior Minister, Hon. Dr. Karl Dawson, as a key advocate for the initiative. He also expressed appreciation to the farmers for their patience and to the RDA team for their commitment to keeping this project a top priority.

“This contract is just one of several to be signed in the coming months as the RDA injects millions into the local economy through critical infrastructure projects. We are not only focused on sustainable development but also on inclusive participation,” he said, urging local contractors, designers, and suppliers to stay engaged with upcoming opportunities via the RDA’s website and digital platforms.

The Farmers’ Reservoir Project is a strategic project aimed to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability in Paraquita Bay—an area long recognized for its fertile lands and vibrant farming community. As the demand for water has increased over the years, the Government has prioritized the construction of a reservoir and upgraded water infrastructure to ensure farmers can meet growing needs for irrigation and livestock care.

This project involves the design, procurement, and installation of a water reservoir, water mains, and associated civil works specifically intended to support Paraquita Bay’s farmers. The design phase, now in progress, is a critical step toward bringing the long-awaited infrastructure to life.

For more information on the Farmers’ Reservoir Project and other upcoming opportunities, visit www.bvirecovery.vg or follow the RDA on its digital platforms.

Highlights from the 13 May, 2025 contract signing ceremony for the Consultancy Services for Engineering Design and Construction Management of Water Mains and

Civil Works for the Farmers' Reservoir.

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