GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Premier Wheatley Attends the Association of Caribbean States Heads of Government Conference

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Premier of the Virgin Islands, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley is scheduled to be on duty travel from today 28th May, 2025 to Saturday, 31st May, 2025.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change Honourable Julian Fraser has been appointed to act as Premier and Minister of Finance from 28th to 31st May, 2025 while Premier Wheatley is away from the Virgin Islands.

Premier Wheatley will attend the Association of Caribbean States Heads of Government Conference which will take place from 29th to 30th May, 2025 in Columbia.

The Association of Caribbean States Heads of Government Conference is a high level gathering. This summit reaffirms the ACS's commitment to regional integration, peace, cooperation, and multilateralism, with a focus on sustainable development. The summit aims to consolidate the Greater Caribbean as a unified, strategic, and peaceful region with its own voice capable of leading common solutions to global challenges.

Honourable Premier said, "I am happy to attend the Association of Caribbean States Heads of Government Conference and represent the Virgin Islands.

Attending such meetings is of great significance as it affords us the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn from other countries about what they are doing to improve areas such as preservation of our beautiful beaches, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable tourism".

Honourable Fraser's appointment is in accordance with Section 55 (1) of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 which states, "If the Premier is expected to be absent from the Virgin Islands for more than forty-eight hours, the Governor shall authorise the Deputy Premier to perform the functions of the office of Premier; and the Governor shall revoke this authority on the return to the Virgin Islands of the Premier."

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to the overall development of the Territory through collaboration with other countries.

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