GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Virgin Islands Public Service scores 74% on annual Rapid Readiness Assessment

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The Virgin Islands Public Service has scored an average of 74% on the annual Rapid Readiness Assessment which shows an increased preparation state ahead of possible hazard impacts.

This score, compared to 66% in 2024 highlights that the public service is also ensuring that the needed systems are in place to protect critical resources.

Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Deputy Governor, Mrs. Sharleen DaBreo-Lettsome, MBE said her office and the Department of Disaster Management have been working collaboratively throughout the year to ensure that ministries and departments have the support needed and systems to maintain critical functions following hazard impacts, while prioritising the well-being of staff members.

Mrs. DaBreo-Lettsome said, “These readiness assessments give us a clear understanding of where we are as an organisation prior to the start of the Atlantic Hurricane Season. It allows us to get clear data that then informs decisions that are necessary to ensure the continuous protection of systems and individuals. This proactive nature will ensure we are always a step ahead in any possible recovery process”.

The Permanent Secretary highlighted that as the season is progressing, the service has faired well through impacts, which is a testament to the effort placed in preparation and awareness.

The readiness assessment also highlights improvements in Communication and Readiness within ministries, awareness and planning and document protection and backup. This means that agencies have maintained an up-to-date contact list of all active employees, and ministerial groups are improving readiness as required. Additionally, the assessment highlighted improvement in public officer awareness, participation in national exercises and the completion of Disaster Response Plans for all offices.

Moving forward, the Office of the Deputy Governor and the Department of Disaster Management will work to address gaps identified by the assessment through the provision of continued support to ministries and departments.

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to ensuring the Public Service is prepared in the event of hazard impacts during and beyond the Atlantic Hurricane Season.

About:

The Annual Rapid Readiness Assessment, coordinated jointly by the Office of the Deputy Governor and the Department of Disaster Management seeks to gauge the Public Services ability to respond to various hazard impacts. It provides guidance for the development of response and mitigation plans to reduce loss of operation or systems during the impact of a hazard.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Additional Documents or Media

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