
Government Signs Contract for Long Look Social Home Complex

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The Government of the Virgin Islands, through the Ministry of Health and Social Development signed a contract with Island Concrete Limited for the construction of the Long Look Social Home Complex.

The signing which took place on 3 November represents a transformative initiative designed to strengthen the Territory's social protection network and restore dignity, stability, and hope to the lives of its most vulnerable citizens.

The new facility will be constructed in the heart of Long Look and will offer structured accommodation and comprehensive support services for chronically homeless individuals and persons facing severe social and economic hardship. Once completed, it will complement the existing Safe Haven Transitional Center by providing a crucial next step toward rehabilitation, reintegration, and independent living.

Premier and Minister of Finance, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, hailed the signing as "a symbol of our collective compassion and commitment to ensuring that every Virgin Islander, regardless of circumstance, has access to the support they need to rebuild their lives with dignity."

He further stated that the Social Home Complex represents an investment in people, community, healing, and in hope. Underscoring the Government's belief that social progress is as vital as economic growth.

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent Wheatley, described the project as a cornerstone of the Ministry's ongoing transformation toward a Ministry for social protection and inclusion. He noted that, following the passage of the Public Assistance Act 2024, the Ministry has intensified its efforts to modernize systems and facilities that meet the Territory's evolving social needs.

"The Long Look Social Home Complex is not just a building," the Minister said. "It is a safe place for recovery, empowerment, and transition and a testament to what can be achieved when government, private sector, and community work together for the common good."

The project's contractor, Mr. Dion Crabbe, Managing Director of Island Concrete Limited, expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to a project that directly impacts his home community. He reaffirmed the company's commitment to timely, cost-effective completion and to ensuring that residents of Long Look are meaningfully involved in the construction process.

The contract was signed for the amount of \$1,722,396.36 and is expected to be completed by December 2026.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands through effective policies, sustainable programmes, and strategic partnerships that support a safe, healthy, and resilient society.

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