GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATEMENT

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Statement by Honourable Lorna G. Smith, OBE To the People of the Virgin Islands on the Rising Conflict between Israel and Iran

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People of the Virgin Islands,

As global tensions continue between the United States, Israel and Iran, many of you are understandably wondering how these events are affecting the cost of living here at home. Even before this conflict, prices were already a concern for families – a matter this Government has been addressing.

This is a time for preparation, not panic. Please be assured that our expanded technical team is meeting daily, reviewing global market signals, analyzing shipping and import trends, and advising on the steps needed to keep our economy steady. This work ensures that we are not reactive, that we are anticipating pressures early and therefore positioning the Virgin Islands to remain stable.

But many of you know this: I do not rely on reports alone. We meet in our supermarkets every week, pushing our carts, comparing brands, looking for value, making thoughtful choices and chatting about these. So, I am very much on the ground with you on the price realities you face. Indeed, this first-hand knowledge helps to guide the policies we advance.

This is why that Basket of Goods initiative remains a priority. The technical framework is complete, the list of essential items has been finalized, and discussions with retailers and importers will continue as this initiative advances. It has taken time because it had to be done properly, and we will continue to update you as we progress. Included in the basket are child care items, fresh produce, meats, some fish, dairy, canned goods, dry goods, baked goods and hygiene products.

In this period of global uncertainty, the public can be assured that Government is fully engaged, paying close attention, and acting in your interest. Just as I look for value when I shop, we are working to ensure that every household can depend on fair prices and a stable market.

Thank you for your trust and resilience. We will continue to keep you informed every step of the way.

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Additional Documents or Media

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