

STATEMENT

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Remarks By Honourable Kye M. Rymer On The Civil Mitigation Policy

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Good day,

I introduce the Government of the Virgin Islands' **Civil Mitigation Policy**, a crucial framework that will enhance how we address infrastructure-related challenges in our communities.

For many years, the Government has supported civil mitigation projects to ensure that the public infrastructure is maintained and improved to meet the needs of our residents.

These projects have ranged from road repairs to drainage improvements, retaining walls, and utility expansions—initiatives that directly impact the quality of life in our communities. However, opportunities to improve the transparency and efficiency of the assessment and execution of these projects remain a priority.

This policy marks a new era of **accountability, equity, and strategic resource allocation**. It sets out clear criteria for civil mitigation projects, introduces a **Technical Assessment Committee** to fairly evaluate and prioritise requests, and establishes a standardised process for procurement, monitoring, and evaluation.

Importantly, this policy ensures that **all projects are assessed based on merit, public benefit, and necessity**, eliminating any ambiguity in decision-making. It also enhances community engagement by providing a formalised process for residents to submit their concerns and requests through a structured application system.

Under this policy, projects eligible for consideration include, but are not limited to:

- **Road repairs and paving** to improve public access and safety
- **Sidewalk and kerb wall construction** to enhance pedestrian infrastructure
- **Retaining walls and road slabs** to reinforce infrastructure stability
- **Drainage improvements** to mitigate flooding and erosion
- **Cleaning and clearing of ghuts** to ensure proper water flow and reduce hazards
- **Installation, repairs, and refurbishment of government infrastructure**
- **Road clearing and cleaning due to unforeseen weather events**

It is important to note that the **execution of approved projects is subject to the availability of funds**. Funding for civil mitigation projects is allocated **through a dedicated district allocation in each of the nine (9) electoral districts**, ensuring that resources are distributed equitably to address the most pressing infrastructure needs across our communities. Additionally, **District Representatives can submit applications to access these funds for infrastructure projects within their respective districts**, ensuring that local priorities are considered and addressed through the proper channels.

By implementing this policy, we are strengthening our commitment to **good governance, fair resource distribution, and sustainable development** in the Virgin Islands. This is a step forward in ensuring that public funds are used responsibly and that the most urgent infrastructure concerns in our communities are addressed efficiently.

For more information on the **Civil Mitigation Policy** and how to apply, please contact the **Ministry of Communications and Works** at **mcw@gov.vg**.

I encourage all residents to familiarise themselves with this policy, as it is designed to serve **you, our people**. Together, let us build a more resilient, well-maintained, and thriving Virgin Islands.

Thank you.