

Virgin Islands Launches National Strategic Action Plan to enhance financial crime prevention

The Government of the Virgin Islands has today published its National Strategic AML/CFT/CPF Action Plan, a comprehensive and coordinated roadmap to enhance the Territory's resilience against money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing threats.

The Action Plan, approved by the National Anti-Money Laundering Coordinating Council on 21st February 2025, supports the implementation of the 2024–2026 National AML/CFT/CPF Strategy. It outlines legislative, regulatory, institutional, and operational priorities to strengthen the Virgin Islands' framework in line with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force.

The Plan is structured around key strategic objectives, including strengthening legislative reforms, advancing regulatory and law enforcement capabilities, improving supervision and oversight of financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions, and enhancing beneficial ownership transparency. It also focuses on improving detection, investigation, prosecution, and international cooperation to combat financial crime.

Premier of the Virgin Islands Dr. the Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley, who also serves as Chair of the National Anti-Money Laundering Coordinating Council (NAMLCC), said:

"This National Action Plan affirms the Virgin Islands' unwavering commitment to protecting the integrity of our financial system and meeting international standards. It is a forward-looking strategy that balances robust regulatory safeguards with practical, risk-based implementation. As we continue to build a stronger and more responsive AML/CFT/CPF regime, we do so with the highest regard for transparency, accountability, and cooperation."

The Action Plan assigns clear responsibilities to key agencies, including the Financial Investigation Agency, Financial Services Commission, Attorney General's Chambers, Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, and Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation.

Progress under the Plan will be continuously monitored and reviewed by NAMLCC, ensuring a practical and measurable framework to guide the Territory's efforts through 2026. It reinforces the Government's resolve to strengthen the AML/CFT/CPF regime in response to evolving threats and international expectations.

The full Action Plan is available here.