



**Remarks by**

**Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley**

**Premier and Minister of Finance**

**East End-Long Look Sewerage Pump Station Commissioning**

**17 February 2026**

My dear Virgin Islands people. A pleasant Good Morning.

Today is a proud moment for the people of East End and Long Look communities, and indeed for the entire Virgin Islands. This morning, we gather to commission the East End/Long Look Sewerage Pump Station - another major milestone in the East End-Long Look Sewerage Project, a project that has been overdue for far too many years, but which has seen tremendous progress under our hard-working Minister of Communications and Works, Honourable Kye Rymer and his team.

For a long time, the people of East End-Long Look and surrounding communities were promised a modern sewerage system. Money was budgeted, commitments were made, but the work never got going and the funds were diverted to other things.

I made a solemn pledge to the people of the 7<sup>th</sup> District, and by extension all the residents of the surrounding communities, that if they elected me as their representative this neglect and disrespect would not continue. I promised to ensure that the East End-Long Look Sewerage Project would finally move from talk to action, from drawings to delivery, from delay to progress.

Today's commissioning is proof that we are keeping that promise.

The East End-Long Look Sewerage Project is being implemented in three phases, and with each phase we move closer to completing a system that the people of this district have deserved for decades.

This sewerage system is not just a piece of infrastructure - it is an investment in public health, in dignity, and in the quality of life of our people. A reliable sewerage system means cleaner surroundings, safer water, and a healthier environment for families, businesses, and future generations. It is part of our broader commitment to build a Territory where development is not concentrated in one area but shared across all communities.

***More...***



Today's milestone demonstrates that this Government is working - steadily, deliberately, and transparently - to deliver on the commitments we made, not only to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District communities, but to the entire Virgin Islands.

I want to commend Honourable Rymer, for his leadership and determination in driving this project forward. I also extend sincere appreciation to the hardworking team at the Ministry, the contractors on the ground, and every public officer and partner who has contributed to this effort. Your dedication is helping us build a stronger, more resilient Virgin Islands.

We are not yet finished - but we are well on our way. And I assure you that my Government remains committed to completing the East End-Long Look Sewerage Project in the shortest practical time, with the quality and accountability that the people deserve, including the people of the 8<sup>th</sup> District.

To the residents of this community: thank you for your patience, your advocacy, and your belief that this day will come. Today, we celebrate progress. Tomorrow, we will continue the work.

May God bless each of you, and may God continue to bless these beautiful Virgin Islands.

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