

STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

The National Security Council (NSC) met today to consider the implications of recent security incidents. The NSC expressed its thoughts for all those affected.

In discussion the NSC:

- welcomed the increase in the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force by 30 police officers projected over the next three to four months.
- also welcomed the introduction of daily foot patrols by police officers in the Road Town area.
- noted the forthcoming training for police officers on ports security.
- stressed the importance of cross-community and cross-government collaboration to address the underlying factors that lead to crime.

The NSC encouraged all communities throughout the Territory to support the police in the current investigations, including by calling Crime Stoppers and the confidential and untraceable hotline **800-8477[TIPS], 800-847-8477 and 368-9339**.

The National Security Council considers matters relating to internal security and any significant security developments in the Territory, including the occurrence of significant criminal activity. The NSC comprises the Governor, as Chairman and members, including the Premier, the Minister for Communication and Works, the Attorney General (*ex-officio*) and the Commissioner of Police (*ex-officio*).

12th February, 2024