

**STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
ON THE RECENT INCIDENT AT HER MAJESTY'S PRISON**

The National Security Council (NSC) convened a special meeting today to consider and review the events at Her Majesty's Prison, which occurred over the weekend, 29-30 May, 2021.

Considering the matters at hand, the NSC later issued a decision, which instructed that immediate steps be taken to enhance the supervision of prisoners at Her Majesty's Prison and more importantly, that an internal inquiry be launched into the events on the weekend. Council in its deliberations further instructed that the two senior officers, who were on duty during the occurrence of events, be placed on administrative leave, pending further investigation.

The NSC also instructed that a wider external review of security arrangements at Her Majesty's Prison should be commissioned and of importance, noted that the current investigation into the wounding and murder at the prison is under the active investigation of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force's Major Incident Team.

Members of the National Security Council also expressed condolences to the family of the deceased.

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; one other Minister, who is the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Agriculture and Fisheries; the Attorney General (*ex-officio*) and the Commissioner of Police (*ex-officio*).

31st May, 2021