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STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE KYE M. RYMER ON WEST END FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT

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REMARKS BY

HONOURABLE KYE M. RYMER

MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS

ON THE WEST END FERRY TERMINAL PROJECT

FEBRUARY 17TH 2025

Greetings Fellow Virgin Islanders,

As the Minister responsible for Communications and Works, I address you regarding the much-anticipated West End Ferry Terminal project. This initiative is a cornerstone of our recovery efforts following the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. And we hope through the end product to enhance connectivity, improve passenger processing, and support economic growth for both residents and visitors.

Your government understands the immense interest in this project, which has been discussed for some time, and apologise for the frustration recent developments may have caused.

The Recovery and Development Agency (RDA), tasked with managing the design and construction of this critical infrastructure, recently concluded the bid submission process. Despite an allocated budget of \$15 million, the bids received were significantly higher—approximately \$64 million and \$94 million—from a local joint venture and a Canadian firm, respectively. This substantial disparity has necessitated a strategic reassessment of the project.

The time, effort, and financial resources invested by the bidders in preparing their submissions has not been overlooked. I also acknowledge the disappointment this situation may have caused to all involved. Let me assure you that we remain steadfast in our commitment to this project.

In collaboration with the RDA, BVI Ports Authority, and other key stakeholders, we are conducting a thorough review of the project's scope and requirements. This

includes exploring value engineering opportunities, and revising the size and scope of the terminal.

While delays are never ideal, our priority is to ensure that this project is executed properly, delivering high-quality outcomes that meet the expectations of our community.

The West End Ferry Terminal is not just an infrastructure project—it is a gateway that will serve as a modern hub for ferry passengers, private yachts, water taxis, and charter vessels. It will also play a pivotal role in strengthening access between Tortola, Jost Van Dyke, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

I want to thank the public for their patience as we navigate these challenges, as well as the bidders for their continued engagement.

This government remains fully committed to ensuring that the West End Ferry Terminal becomes a reality. We will provide timely updates as we take these necessary steps to move forward responsibly. Thank you for your understanding as we work together to deliver an infrastructure project worthy of our territory's future.