

Premier To Attend High-Level Meetings In Asia

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Premier Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley will be away from the Territory from Friday, February 14th to Sunday, February 23rd attend high-level meetings with key Asian stakeholders.

The meetings will be held between February 16th to 21st and will take place in critical financial hubs including Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Macau, and Malaysia. These discussions are part of the Virgin Islands' ongoing strategy to reinforce and expand its strategic relationships in the Asia-Pacific region, a key driver of the Territory's financial services sector.

Premier Wheatley commented on the significance of this mission, stating that the visit to Asia is a crucial step in securing the Virgin Islands' position as a leading player in the global financial landscape.

The Premier said, "As the Asia-Pacific region continues to grow as a powerhouse in global finance, it is essential for us to strengthen our partnerships and engage in meaningful dialogue with industry leaders." He added, "These efforts will foster long-term economic growth and ensure that the Virgin Islands remains competitive and resilient in an ever-evolving global market."

Deputy Premier Honourable Julian Fraser, who will also be travelling to attend the CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting from February 18th to 22nd will serve as Acting Premier and Minister of Finance from February 14th to 17th.

Honourable Fraser's appointment is in accordance with Section 55 (1) of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, which states, "If the Premier is expected to be absent from the Virgin Islands for more than forty-eight hours, the Governor shall authorise the Deputy Premier to perform the functions of the office of Premier; and the Governor shall revoke this authority on the return to the Virgin Islands of the Premier."

Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Kye Rymer will also act as Premier and Minister of Finance from February 18th to 23rd. These appointments are in line with Section 55(2) of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, which states, "If both the Premier and the Deputy Premier are expected to be absent from the Virgin Islands for more than forty-eight hours, the Governor shall authorise another Minister designated by the Premier to perform the functions of the office of Premier; and the Governor shall revoke this authority on the return to the Virgin Islands of either the Premier or the Deputy Premier."

The Premier's delegation includes Territorial At-Large Member, Honourable Lorna G. Smith, OBE, and Member for the Eighth Electoral District, Honourable Marlon Penn.

The Government of the Virgin Islands is committed to promoting sustainable economic growth, fostering strategic partnerships, and advancing policies that support the long-term development of the Territory. As a leading international financial centre, the Government works to strengthen the Virgin Islands' position on the global stage, ensuring a resilient and thriving economy for future generations.