GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATEMENT

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Publication of the Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization's Visiting Mission to the British Virgin Islands

Release Date: 6 February, 2025

Publication of the Report of the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization's Visting Mission to the British Virgin Islands

6th February 2025

Premier Dr. Hon. Natalio D. Wheatley

Press Statement

A pleasant good morning to the people of the Virgin Islands.

I am pleased to announce that the United Nations (UN) has published the official report of the UN Special Committee on Decolonization's visiting mission to the British Virgin Islands from 26th-27th August 2024 that assessed the progress of the Territory's decolonization and gauged the views of the people on the next steps in their journey on the path of self-determination to achieve a full measure of self-government.

The Government welcomes the report and its recommendations. The report recommends:

1. Education programme. Implement a national education programme on the quest for independence, supported by the Administering Power and facilitated by the United Nations;
2. Independence timetable. Establish a timetable for independence. Midway through this period, the Territory should be granted some form of self-governance, decided by the Administering Power and the people of the Territory;
3. Discussions with the Administering Power. Engage in talks with the Government of the United Kingdom, potentially involving a United Nations-appointed arbitrator if needed and agreed upon, to continue steps towards self-governance and independence;
4. Consideration of a referendum. Assess the need for a referendum on independence. If a referendum is called for, ensure that a robust education programme is implemented by the United Nations as an independent agent in the process.

In the coming weeks, the report will be laid before the House of Assembly and debated in the context of our constitutional review process.

The Government will also provide an official forum for members the public to express their views on the findings of the report and its recommendations.

The visiting mission report is available on the Bulletins page on Government's web portal at www.bvi.gov.vg.

I encourage the public to read the report and to be prepared to express their views at the forum to be organised by the Government organise in the near future.

I again want to thank the UN Special Committee on Decolonization for the visiting mission and the Member States of CARICOM and OECS for their strong support.

I also want to thank my international relations team for the Virgin Islands' robust engagement with the UN to make the visiting mission a reality.

God bless these beautiful Virgin Islands.

Additional Documents or Media

- c-24 official report of the visiting mission to the bvi 26-27 august 2024.pdf