

# STATEMENT

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## Government Responds to Tariffs Imposed by the United States Government

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## **Government Responds to Tariffs Imposed by the United States**

### **Government**

The Government of the Virgin Islands has expressed concern about the recent tariffs imposed by the United States (US) on countries worldwide, including a 10% tariff on the Virgin Islands. These tariffs follow prior US tariffs imposed on goods imported from Mexico, Canada and China, as well as tariffs on imported steel globally.

These tariffs, alongside the escalating threat of a global trade war and proposed US Government fees on shipping operators of any Chinese-built vessels calling on US ports, have the potential to impose significantly higher costs on our local economy and the wider Caribbean.

Government continues to consult with the relevant stakeholders to assess the potential impact of these developments on the Virgin Islands, and remains in close contact with CARICOM, OECS and ACS on the steps the region can take to help mitigate the potential impact of higher tariffs and higher shipping costs.

Commenting Hon. Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, Premier of the Virgin Islands, said:

“Safeguarding the economic interests of the Virgin Islands is our utmost priority, and we will continue to do all we can to ensure the stability of our economy and the prosperity of our society. We are actively engaging with key stakeholders from across industry and will be meeting with business leaders and retailers over the coming days to ensure our response protects the needs and interests of BVI consumers as effectively as possible.”

For further updates, please visit the Government of the Virgin Islands' official website at [www.gov.vg](http://www.gov.vg).