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VI Government Reports Progress on Implementation of Discretionary Powers Policy

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**GOVERNMENT OF
VIRGIN ISLANDS**
Premier's Office

The Government of the Virgin Islands has provided an update on the implementation of its Discretionary Powers Policy as it remains committed to promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making across the Public Service.

Following a January 2025 circular, Permanent Secretary in the Premier's Office, Mrs. Carolyn Stoutt Igwe, is notifying all public officers of the importance of the policy guide to strengthening good governance across the Territory.

The policy was developed to support lawful and transparent decision-making, and was shared electronically with all public officers and key agencies after its launch in March this year.

Since that time, significant progress has been made including:

- Two virtual webinars conducted to build public officers' awareness and understanding of the policy.
- Three in-person workshops held to provide deeper, practical engagement on applying discretionary powers within the framework of Virgin Islands law.
- A digital platform is being developed to support the tracking of discretionary decisions and promote consistency and accountability.
- Training for public officers in the use of this platform is planned.
- Additional supporting materials are being prepared to help public officers apply the guidance in their daily duties effectively.

Premier and Minister of Finance, Honourable Natalio D. Wheatley, emphasised the importance of legal and procedural awareness, stating, "Public Officers must familiarise themselves with the Virgin Islands Constitution 2007, applicable laws, regulations and policies, and the government's structure, procedures and policies. By doing so, officers will ensure that the future of this Territory is safeguarded, and rules, policies, and guidelines are followed, securing a brighter future for the next generation."

The Premier's Office continues to play a leading role in developing policies related to the Premier's portfolio and guiding the development, implementation, and

monitoring of cross-ministry government initiatives.

The rollout of the Discretionary Powers Policy is a key example of that leadership and dedication to good governance.

For more information, or to access the policy guide, please visit gov.vg.