GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Marine Safety Authority Update on Boating Accident Investigation

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Chief Marine Safety Accident Investigator Mr. Jerome Padmore has said that the Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority (MSIRA), is making significant progress in the investigation of a boating incident which occurred on Saturday, July 26.

The Authority has confirmed that the accident involved a 31-foot Stamas 310 Tarpon named MV Mojaito, which was returning to Village Cay, Tortola, after participating in the "Xmas in July" event on Virgin Gorda.

Mr. Padmore explained that while navigating, the vessel struck a green steel lateral buoy located approximately 0.4 nautical miles south of the Brandywine Bay entrance, suffering structural damage which caused it to partially sink. He said nearby boaters on private vessels were able to safely rescue all ten persons on board and that no one sustained injuries.

"Safety accident investigations typically involve in-depth examinations of systems, procedures, and human factors," Mr. Padmore said. He added, "I want to assure you that a comprehensive investigation is underway, and a detailed report will be made available to the public once the investigation into the accident is complete."

The Chief Investigator said the Authority emphasises that the primary goal of this investigation is to improve maritime safety and prevent future incidents. He said the aim is also to continue efforts and provide updates as needed. Additionally, the public is advised that all marine accidents should be reported to the Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority MSIRA, as required by law.

The Marine Safety Investigation and Reporting Authority operates under the Premier's Office and is the official body responsible for the independent investigation of marine accidents and incidents within the territorial waters of the Virgin Islands.

The Authority is guided by the Merchant Shipping (Accident Reporting and Investigation) Regulations, 2020 and the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Casualty Investigation Code. Its primary objective is to enhance maritime safety through fact-based investigations, identifying safety issues, and issuing recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. The Authority's

investigations do not seek to apportion blame or establish liability.

Additional Documents or Media

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