GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Contract Signed To Improve Employee Health & Wellness With Office Renovation

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Improving employee health, wellness and productivity is at the centre of a new office renovation contract signed between the Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) and Vanterpool Construction to facilitate the relocation of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

The contract valued at $401,533.15 was awarded on Tuesday, 10 February, 2026, following a National (Domestic) Competitive Bidding process conducted in accordance with the RDA's Procurement Policy and Procedures.

Permanent Secretary Dr. Ronald Smith-Berkeley and Deputy Secretary Ms. Louann Hodge in the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change attended the signing along with representatives of the RDA and the contractor.

RDA Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Anthony McMaster, said the project addresses a long-standing need that arose in the aftermath of the 2017 hurricanes.

"It is always a pleasure for the RDA to collaborate with Ministries across Government as we continue the work of rebuilding while advancing development," Mr. McMaster said. "Although we are progressing toward a development focus, there remain important matters that must be addressed. This project will allow the Ministry's staff to transition into a space that is safer, healthier and more suitable for their operations."

The RDA CEO added, "We recognise the challenges the team has faced since being displaced from the Central Administration Complex. Providing an improved working environment will support greater productivity and ultimately enhance the service delivered to the public. We look forward to working closely with the contractor to complete the works as quickly as possible."

Permanent Secretary (PS) Dr. Berkeley noted that the Ministry, like many Government departments, had to move into available accommodation immediately after the storms.

"At the time, we went where space was available because services had to continue," PS Berkeley said.

PS Berkeley added, “This relocation gives us the opportunity to move into proper and more adequate office accommodation. While our staff has remained committed and productive, a comfortable environment will certainly help them to perform at their best.”

For Vanterpool Construction, the award represents the company’s first contract with the RDA. Owner Mr. Danta Vanterpool thanked the Government of the Virgin Islands and the Agency for the opportunity.

“We are grateful for the confidence placed in our firm,” Mr. Vanterpool said. “It is a good feeling to be given this opportunity, and we will do our very best to deliver the project on time and within budget.”

Works under the contract will comprise a full office renovation to ensure the facility is fit for purpose and capable of supporting the Ministry’s operational needs in providing services to the public.

The Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) is a purpose-built project implementation agency established by the Government of the Virgin Islands in 2018 to support the Territory’s recovery and long-term development. The Agency is responsible for delivering a portfolio of infrastructure and institutional strengthening projects and works in partnership with Ministries, departments and external stakeholders to ensure value for money, transparency and timely execution.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

Highlights from the 10 February, 2026 contract signing Ceremony for the Renovation of the Office Space for the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

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