GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATEMENT

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Statement by Acting Superintendent of His Majesty's Prison Regarding Inmate Incident

Release Date: 14 May, 2026

Statement by Acting Superintendent of His Majesty’s Prison,

Mr. Raymond Grant

Regarding Incident at His Majesty’s Prison

14 May 2026

The Management and Staff of His Majesty’s Prison are aware of videos circulating on social media depicting an incident involving a prisoner at His Majesty’s Prison at Balsam Ghut.

The incident has now been safely resolved by prison staff acting in accordance with established operational procedures and contingency arrangements. The matter involved one prisoner, remained fully contained within the institution at all times, and posed no wider threat to public safety.

The incident arose after the individual became non-compliant with lawful instructions issued by prison officers in relation to matters concerning prison discipline and security. Behaviour that disrupts the good order of the prison, prevents staff from safely accessing and securing any part of the institution, or places the safety of staff, prisoners, or others at risk is taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with the Prison Rules and the laws of the Virgin Islands.

During the response, prison officers recovered contraband, including an unauthorised cellular device, and the individual was safely relocated. The matter will now proceed through the appropriate internal processes. Where necessary, it may also be referred to external law enforcement agencies for consideration of any criminal offences.

The Prison Service is also aware of claims circulating publicly regarding the prisoner’s treatment and welfare. Based on the information available at this time, there is no evidence to support claims that the prisoner was denied food or basic care. Staff continued to monitor the prisoner throughout the incident, with safety, welfare, and de-escalation considerations guiding the response.

Incidents of this nature are treated with the utmost seriousness. Any conduct that compromises the safety, security, or good order of the prison will be managed through established procedures and, where appropriate, referred to the relevant law enforcement authorities.

I wish to commend the professionalism, restraint, and courage shown by prison officers and staff throughout this incident. Their calm and disciplined handling of a difficult situation ensured that the matter was brought to a safe resolution while maintaining the security of the institution.

The Prison Service remains committed to safeguarding the welfare of persons in custody, protecting its officers and staff, and maintaining the safety and security of His Majesty’s Prison and the wider Virgin Islands community.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Additional Documents or Media

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