GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Sabbath Hill Reservoir Operating at Fifty Percent as Repairs Continue

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The Ministry of Communications and Works is advising residents and businesses that intermittent water disruptions are expected to continue in several areas of Tortola while critical rehabilitation works at the Sabbath Hill Reservoir facility are completed. The Ministry recognises the inconvenience these interruptions have caused and thanks customers for their continued patience and understanding as efforts continue to strengthen the Territory's water infrastructure.

The Ministry is pleased to report that the first of the two reservoirs at Sabbath Hill has now been fully rehabilitated and returned to service, marking a significant milestone in the ongoing water infrastructure maintenance and upgrade programme. The second reservoir remains on schedule for completion on 30 November 2026.

While this progress is encouraging, the Sabbath Hill facility continues to operate at approximately fifty percent of its normal storage capacity until both reservoirs are fully operational. As a result, some customers may continue to experience intermittent disruptions to their water supply until the remaining works are completed and the facility's full storage capacity is restored.

Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Kye M. Rymer acknowledged the impact the ongoing disruptions have had on residents and businesses throughout the Territory and reaffirmed Government's commitment to restoring a more reliable water service as quickly as possible.

Honourable Rymer said, "We understand the frustration and inconvenience that continued water disruptions have caused for residents, families and businesses, and we sincerely apologise for the impact on daily life. While the completion of the first reservoir is an important milestone, we recognise that customers will not experience the full benefit of these works until both reservoirs are returned to service. Our teams and contractors are working diligently to complete the remaining repairs on schedule and restore the level of service that our customers expect and deserve."

The Minister added that the rehabilitation of the Sabbath Hill facility forms part of a broader initiative to improve the resilience, reliability and efficiency of the

Territory's water distribution network.

Director of the Water and Sewerage Department Mr. Lyndon Hodge said the completion of the first reservoir represents a significant step towards strengthening the Territory's water infrastructure and ensuring a more dependable supply of potable water for residents and businesses.

Mr. Lyndon Hodge said, "Completing the first Sabbath Hill reservoir is a major accomplishment and an important step towards restoring the facility to full operational capacity. However, with only one of the two reservoirs currently in service, the system remains constrained and cannot consistently keep pace with demand across the distribution network, particularly during peak periods. We remain focused on completing the second reservoir by the end of the month so that customers can begin to realise the full benefits of these improvements."

Sabbath Hill's Role in the Water System

The Sabbath Hill Reservoir facility is a critical component of the Virgin Islands' water transmission and distribution network on Tortola. Water produced at the Seven Seas Water Plant is initially stored at Sabbath Hill before being distributed throughout the Territory. Together, the two reservoirs provide a total storage capacity of one million gallons.

From Sabbath Hill, water is transmitted through the network to serve communities including Road Town, Purcell Estate, Fort Hill and surrounding areas, while also supporting the filling of several downstream reservoirs that distribute water across a wider service area. Operating at fifty percent capacity limits the system's ability to meet demand consistently, particularly during periods of high consumption.

The current phase of works covers repairs to five reservoirs across the Territory, namely Hannah Hill, Sabbath Hill, Balsam Ghut, Fort Hill and Minton Hill on Virgin Gorda. These improvements form part of the Government's ongoing commitment to providing a more reliable and resilient water supply system for the people of the Virgin Islands.

Key Project Details

- The Sabbath Hill project includes the rehabilitation of two water storage reservoirs with a combined capacity of one million gallons, together with upgrades to associated piping, valves and site infrastructure.
- The first 500,000-gallon reservoir has been fully refurbished, tested, disinfected and returned to service.
- The second reservoir remains on schedule for completion and commissioning by 30 November 2026.
- Upon completion, customers will benefit from improved storage capacity, greater pressure stability, enhanced system resilience and a reduced risk of service interruptions.

The Ministry of Communications and Works and the Water and Sewerage Department thanks residents and businesses for their patience and cooperation while these essential infrastructure improvements are carried out. Customers will continue to be updated as progress is made toward the completion of the remaining repairs and the restoration of full operational capacity at the Sabbath Hill Reservoir facility.

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About:

The Ministry of Communications & Works in the Virgin Islands is the arm of the government responsible for the Territory’s roads, bridges, water, sewage systems, energy, telecommunications, and seaports. Its mission is to ensure the continued development and maintenance of public infrastructure in alignment with international standards. By partnering with relevant stakeholders, the ministry aims to provide reliable and affordable public utilities, enhancing the quality of life for both residents and visitors in the Virgin Islands.

The Water and Sewerage Department is a customer-oriented government department that facilitates the delivery of quality and affordable water supply and sewage disposal services to all residents of the Virgin Islands.

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Gallery



Additional Documents or Media

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