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## **Government Signs Contract for Major Peebles Wing Clinics Lobby Renovation to Strengthen Healthcare Infrastructure**

The Government of the Virgin Islands has officially signed a contract for the Major Peebles Wing Clinics Lobby Renovation Project between the Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) and Supreme Construction Engineering Management Services.

The contract, valued at \$463,087.20, marks another significant step in the Government's continued commitment to strengthening the Territory's healthcare infrastructure and ensuring that health facilities remain safe, accessible, and fully equipped to support the delivery of quality healthcare services to the people of the Virgin Islands.

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent Wheatley, who participated in the signing ceremony, said the project reflects the Government's steadfast dedication to modernising public health facilities and improving the environments in which care is delivered.

"I am pleased to join you this afternoon for the signing of this important contract, which marks another significant step in our continued commitment to strengthening the Territory's healthcare infrastructure," the Minister said.

Honourable Wheatley outlined the scope of works under the project, noting that the renovations are both timely and essential for improving patient and staff experience and supporting efficient clinic operations.

The works include the renovation of the Road Town Clinic lobby, demolition of the existing staircase, and construction of a new staircase extending to roof level, as well as renovation of the lobby bathroom. The project also includes the renovation of the Outpatient Clinic lobby and the construction of a new storage area.

Additionally, a new elevator shaft will be constructed at the front entrance stairs up to the second level, along with all required builder's works to facilitate the installation of a new elevator. Renovation works will also extend to the roof level office space, along with upgrades to the façade of the Major Peebles Wing, including the installation of two new external signs.

“These upgrades are necessary to improve the functionality and ease of movement through the facility, enhance the experience of patients and staff, support the continuity and efficiency of clinic operations, and enhance the overall appearance of the Major Peebles Wing,” the Minister added.

The Minister further stated that the expected outcomes of the project extend beyond physical improvements, noting that it will contribute to strengthening the Territory’s overall healthcare infrastructure and service delivery capacity.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the BVI Health Services Authority, Dr. June Samuel, welcomed the investment, noting its importance in addressing critical infrastructural needs at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital and its associated facilities.

“This project speaks directly to long standing infrastructural needs that impact the efficiency and functionality of services at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital. The renovations will significantly improve patient flow, staff operations, and the overall delivery of care within the Major Peebles Wing. This is a timely and much needed investment in our healthcare system,” Dr. Samuel said.

Premier of the Virgin Islands, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, also welcomed the signing, underscoring the Government’s commitment to maintaining modern, resilient, and world class public infrastructure.

“This contract reflects the Government’s unwavering commitment to ensuring that the Territory’s infrastructure is maintained and upgraded to world class standards. The Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital remains the Territory’s premier healthcare facility, and investments such as this are essential to ensuring it continues to meet the needs of our people,” the Premier stated.

The contract was awarded following a successful national competitive bidding process, in keeping with the Government’s commitment to transparency, accountability, and the responsible management of public funds.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure, improving patient care environments, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of health services across the Virgin Islands.

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**For Additional Information Contact:**

Fitsroy Randall  
Information Officer I  
Ministry of Health and Social Development  
Telephone: 468-4138  
Email: [frandall@gov.vg](mailto:frandall@gov.vg)