

STATEMENT FROM QUORUM ISLAND (BVI) LIMITED ON DECISION IN JUDICIAL REVIEW CLAIM REGARDING BEEF ISLAND PROJECT

The High Court delivered its judgment yesterday on the Judicial Review claim brought by the Virgin Islands Environmental Council (VIEC) against the proposed development of Beef Island. The VIEC were challenging the validity of the planning approval granted on January 31, 2007 by the former Chief Minister and Minister of Planning.

In response, Quorum Island (BVI) Limited (Quorum), the developer of the Beef Island project, commented:

"Although not a defendant in the action, Quorum has a strong interest in the outcome of this proceeding. We are pleased that the learned Judge's decision recognized there was no bias or irrationality by the Government in approving the project and that the master plan was backed by substantial environmental planning. The Judge also specifically recognized that there were two planning applications, one covering the master plan and one covering the golf course. The resort project has been recognized by successive Governments as important to the expansion of the tourist base in the BVI. The honourable Judge identified several components of the proposed master plan, namely the hotel, inner marina, residential development, commercial development and infrastructural development, which may not have an adverse impact on Hans Creek and may not give rise to illegality.

We have always recognized that the Beef Island development should protect Hans Creek from adverse impacts. Our existing plan was created and reviewed by some of the top experts in the world and was specifically designed to remedy existing threats to Hans Creek without creating new threats. The golf course was made part of the development commitment by the Government of H. Lavity Stoutt when Quorum first acquired the property in 1995. However, we will now further review our plans for the golf course in light of yesterday's judgment.

As directed by the court, we look forward to working with the Government, and other stakeholders, to address the issues raised by the decision of Justice Hariprashad-Charles. We remain fully committed to the development of a project that will return the British Virgin Islands to its position as a top tourist destination worldwide and renew our commitment to do so in an environmentally sensitive manner."