

For Immediate Release:

February 21, 2016

SEDI the Macro Economic & Public Policy Think Tank has commenced the process to petition the US Virgin Islands government (USVI), based on ACT No. 6828 Bill No. 26-0037 and its merits of establishing local government and how local government can grow the economy more efficiently. SEDI will be engaging the public via its weekly Economic Roundtable Business Forum and Town Hall meetings.

In the wake of US and Cuba normalization of relations, SEDI is strongly advocating for the territory and the government to participate, and be proactively involve as observer with the geopolitical and economic bloc Caricom in the Caribbean & Latin America region. USVI role as an observer with Caricom is imperative and an important prerequisite for better geopolitical and socioeconomic integration and collaboration in the region to grow the USVI economy.

Encompassing the above mentioned issues, coupled with the upcoming US Presidential, VI Legislative and Delegate to Congress election in 2016, and the 2017 VI Centennial event on the horizon, these issues of governance and matters of the economy is of paramount importance.

Agenda to Establish Municipal Government in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Implementing ACT No. 6828 Bill No. 26-0037 to bring government closer to the people, allowing government to be more transparent, accountable, efficient, streamlining the territory's government to be more effective to improve the standard of living, quality of life and grow the economy. Exhibit document http://sedivision.com/uploads/Act_6828.pdf

The Virgin Islands is a territory of the United States of America. In 1917, America purchased the islands (St. Thomas, St. John, & St. Croix) from Denmark for \$25M in gold. Ten years later all citizens of the territory became American citizens in 1927. The United States Navy administrated the territory from 1917 to 1932. The Department of Interior took over administrative control from the Navy and set up municipal government with the local authorities. In 1970 Virgin Islands were able to elect their own government (Governor, Senators & Congressional Representative to the U.S. House of Representative). The US Virgin Islands is in the process of planning and preparing for the 2017 Centennial event, hallmarking the US Virgin Islands purchase and transfer between Denmark and the United States.

United States Virgin Islands: Government and society

The government is organized under the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, passed by the U.S. Congress in 1936 and amended in 1954 and subsequently. The government has three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The governor, elected by universal adult (18 years and older) suffrage to a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms, appoints heads of the executive branches.

Virgin Islands: Settlement and history of the U.S. Virgin Islands

The Organic Act of 1936, enacted by the U.S. Congress for the establishment of congressional government, provided for two municipal councils, one for St. Thomas and St. John, the other for St. Croix, and a council for the whole territory. A Revised Organic Act adopted in 1954 created a central government and abolished the independent municipal councils.

Caricom

Associate Members - Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos Islands

Observer Members - Aruba, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Puerto Rico Commonwealth, Sint Maarten, Venezuela

SEDI 2016 economic outlook and forecasting for economic growth and opportunities are in four (4) primary areas: Economic Growth - Natural Resources, Leveraging Assets & Policy Framework and Capital Goods/Infrastructure Investment. Please contact Mr. Anthony Weeks at Tel. (914)0574-1213 for further details, or go to www.sedivision.com to learn more about the SEDI initiative.