



# News Release

Virgin Islands Port Authority  
Office of the Executive Director  
Public Relations Department  
P.O. Box 301707  
St. Thomas, VI 00803

Tel: (340) 774-1629  
Tel: (340) 714-6640 / 714-6639  
Fax: (340) 714-1492/ 774-0025  
E-mail: [info@viport.com](mailto:info@viport.com)  
Internet: [www.viport.com](http://www.viport.com)

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**Contact:** Monifa Marrero Brathwaite  
Public Information Officer  
Cell: (340) 244-1065

## **VIPA Director Reports King Airport Progress and Recovery Updates**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will be able to return to their assigned area in the Cyril E. King Airport Terminal and use their equipment to screen travelers by this weekend, announced Virgin Islands Port Authority Executive Director David Mapp. The use of scanning equipment and machines should significantly reduce wait times during the screening process at CEKA.

TSA has been manually screening travelers in a temporary area outside of preclearance pending repairs to the CEKA terminal, which was severely damaged by two Category 5 Hurricanes in September. Mapp said that air quality test results stating that the preclearance area was safe for airport operations were delivered this week to both TSA and VIPA. TSA has already begun the process of returning to their normal location and should be in place by Saturday, he said. Mapp advised travelers to arrive at least three to four hours early for their flights to allow enough time for the screening process. Normal operations at CEKA, to include increased flight availability to St. Thomas, is anticipated to begin by mid-December.

VIPA has been able to successfully operate most of its seaports as normal since the hurricanes, said Mapp. The Theovald Moorehead Dock and Terminal at Enighed Pond was recently reopened in St. John and barges have returned to the facility to transport vehicles and cargo to the island.

The Austin “Babe” Monsanto Marine Terminal in Crown Bay welcomed the return of cruise ships to its port on November 21<sup>st</sup> as the Harmony of the Seas brought over 5,000 passengers plus 2,300 crew to St. Thomas. Eight cruise ships berthed at Crown Bay in November and 30 ships are scheduled for December, said Mapp. Cruise ships have returned to St. Croix since November 15<sup>th</sup>. There were two calls in November, two visits are scheduled for December and 13 calls are scheduled for January at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility in Frederiksted, Mapp said. VIPA’s cruise

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schedules for both St. Thomas and St. Croix have been updated and are available online at [www.viport.com](http://www.viport.com). All cruise schedules are subject to change.

Mapp reminded the traveling public that most of its facilities were damaged during the storm and are in the process of being repaired. “VIPA has engaged the services of several contractors to perform temporary repairs so that we could reopen our facilities after the storms and enable travel and commerce. However, there are still extensive repairs that need to be made to our properties,” he said. VIPA has entered into an agreement with Lemartec, Inc. to manage the reconstruction of its hurricane-damaged properties. CEKA has been targeted as the priority project, with an active construction schedule to begin in mid-January 2018. Lemartec, Inc. is one of the premier aviation construction management firms in the industry and has been licensed to do business in the territory for the past three years.

Mapp asked travelers to pardon the appearance at all VIPA facilities as renovations are ongoing. He thanks the public for their continued patience as the Authority works to rebuild its port facilities. Updates regarding VIPA’s progress will be posted on VIPA’s Website [www.viport.com](http://www.viport.com) or [www.facebook.com/usviports](https://www.facebook.com/usviports). Questions may be directed to the public relations office at (340) 774-1629 or [info@viport.com](mailto:info@viport.com).

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