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## Calypso Monarch Canceled Following Impasse; First Ever Children's Night Set for Dec. 27 at Festival Village

Dept. of Tourism Commissioner expresses regret, but said the ultimatum from Calypsonian leadership forced the cancellation, shifting focus to the innovative Children's Night event

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A calypsonian performs during the 2022 Calypso Monarch, which was held at The Palms at Pelican Cove. By. V.I. CONSORTIUM

The V.I. Department of Tourism and the Division of Festivals have announced schedule changes for the 2023-2024 Crucian Christmas Festival, including the cancellation of the Calypso Monarch competition and the introduction of a new Children's Night.

The Calypso Monarch competition, which was originally scheduled for December 27 at the Festival Village, will no longer take place. Dept. of Tourism Commissioner Joseph Boschulte expressed his disappointment regarding the cancellation. "As a staple of the Crucian Christmas Festival tradition, it is unfortunate that we are unable to move forward with this year's planned event," said Boschulte. He explained that the decision came after discussions with the St. Croix Calypsonian leadership, where an ultimatum left the organizers with no choice but to cancel the event to avoid a potential vacancy in the festival schedule.

In place of the Calypso show, December 27 will now feature the first-ever Children's Night. This special event aims to engage the youngest members of the St. Croix community with entertainment and activities tailored for them. "We are excited to host this extraordinary night, celebrating the community's youth, providing them with an opportunity to experience the village with aspects dedicated to their enjoyment," stated Shamari Haynes, assistant director of the Division of Festivals.

The introduction of Children's Night is seen as a significant addition to the festival, highlighting the organizers' commitment to inclusive and family-friendly programming. It represents a shift in focus for the festival, aiming to cater to a broader demographic and enrich the festive experience for all attendees.

The announcement marks a new chapter for the Crucian Christmas Festival, as it adapts to changes and looks to provide diverse and enriching experiences for the community and visitors alike.