

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Governor Mapp Heads To Florida On Week-Long Trip For "Series Of Appointments"

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ST. THOMAS -- Governor Kenneth Mapp will leave the territory for Florida today and return on May 22, according to a press release issued by Government House.

Asked about the governor's itinerary while on the U.S. mainland, Kimberly Jones, the Mapp administration's Communications Director, would only say that the territory's leader has "a series of appointments" to attend.

Mapp's last trip to Florida was during the annual SeaTrade Conference, widely known as the 'Cruise Shipping Miami Trade Show,' where he met with cruise industry officials and spoke about the benefits of doing business in the territory.

Following the trip, Government House released a video with Mapp relaying his belief that the territory's main product, tourism, would continue to thrive based on meetings held with cruise line executives.

"I felt very hopeful [and] very optimistic in my meetings with the individual cruise executives and CEOs," Mapp said. "When you're meeting with heads of companies as opposed to their staff, and they're underscoring the importance of the Virgin Islands to the industry, and their continued commitment to bring passengers to the territory, that's very comforting."

The governor also praised the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism (DOT) Commissioner-designee, Beverly Nicholson-Doty and her team, along with the Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) and the West Indian Company (WICO), for what he describes as "an outstanding job of a presentation of the infrastructure and opportunities in the Virgin Islands."

During Mapp's absence, Lieutenant Governor Osbert Potter will take up the role of acting governor.