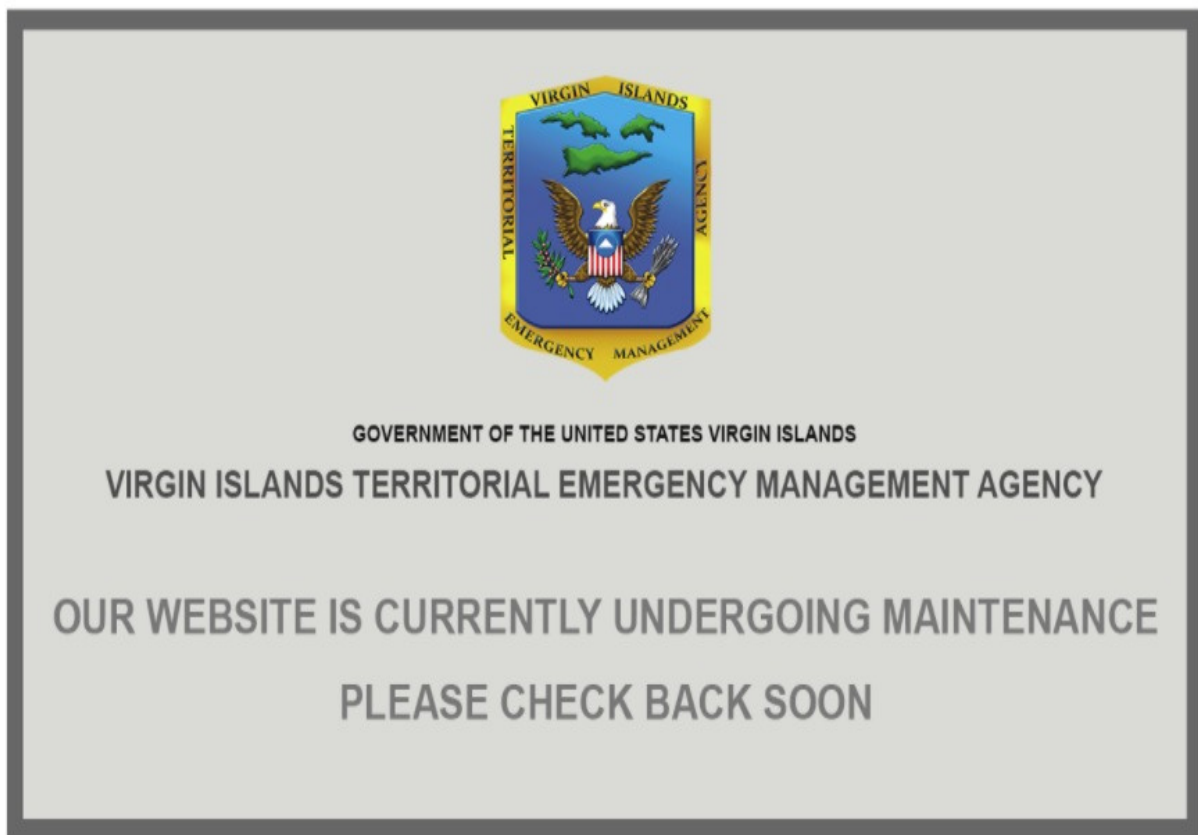


The Virgin Islands Consortium

VITEMA Website Will Be Operational Within A Month, Barnes Says

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The Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency's website -- down months before Hurricanes Irma and Maria struck the territory in September 2017 -- will be back up within a month, according to V.I.T.E.M.A. Director Mona Barnes, responding to a question from a reporter during Governor Kenneth Mapp's hurricane recovery press briefing on Wednesday.

"We are in the process of getting the website back up. We have selected a vendor, and it's a matter of them getting their paperwork into Property and Procurement, and everything that they need, and then we will have the website up.

"Yes. So we're looking for less than 30 days for that website to be up," she said.

With V.I.T.E.M.A. being the government's most important resource during natural disasters, residents were frustrated during the 2017 hurricane season, as they were not able to visit the site for important information.

In June 2017, V.I.T.E.M.A. said it was close to closing a contract to have the website be rebuilt, and that it would be up and running in July 2017. But the entire hurricane season passed with the website being down. There are 120 days remaining before the start of the 2018 Hurricane Season.

The VITEMA website also provides other important information, including call logs to 911 and the police blotter.