

The Virgin Islands Consortium

The Big Interview: Governor Bryan Sits With Ernice Gilbert Friday Afternoon

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Governor Albert Bryan will sit with The Consortium's Ernice Gilbert for what is expected to be a 1-hr interview at Government House on St. Croix, according to The Consortium.

The interview has been a long time coming; Mr. Bryan had promised The Consortium publisher an interview following the governor's first 100 days in office, but the governor's busy schedule saw the interview being delayed well past Mr. Bryan's first three months in office.

Some topics will include the news of the day, of course, which is Mr. Bryan's proposed use of the \$39.5 million Medicaid reimbursement and the uproar that followed. Also set to

be discussed will be Mr. Bryan's tenure so far, the reorganization of the Senate, among other questions.

The governor should have a lot to share; he has not held more than three press conferences since his tenure, even as he's been traveling to the mainland for meetings, including earlier this week at the annual Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit. There, Mr. Bryan took center stage on behalf of the territory, where he was to highlight the USVI's assets at a plenary discussion featuring heads of government from the British Virgin Islands and French St. Martin.

Also, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority is at a crossroads -- again -- and is in dire need of not just a one-time infusion of cash, but a sustainable solution. So far for WAPA, this has meant raising the cost of utility to astronomical levels.

And then there's G.E.R.S., the beleaguered pension system that is set to collapse no later than 2023.

Mr. Bryan spoke of all these problems before taking office, and we'd like to know the steps he's taking to correct them.

The interview runs from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.