

The Virgin Islands Consortium

As Earthquakes Batter Puerto Rico, Plaskett Calls on Federal Gov't to Support Island; Says USVI is Praying for its Neighbors

Disaster Recovery / **Published On January 13, 2020 05:16 AM /**

Robert Moore **January 13, 2020**



A damaged home and street in Guanica town after a 6.4-magnitude earthquake hit Puerto Rico, Jan. 7 By. ALEJANDRO GRANADILLO/ANADOLU AGENCY VIA GETTY IMAGES

Aftershocks rattled off the southern coast of Puerto Rico early Sunday morning following another powerful earthquake on Saturday, this time at magnitude of 5.9 ([originally calculated as a magnitude 6.0](#)). On Sunday night at 10:57 p.m. and 11:08 p.m., two aftershocks — 4.5 and 4.6 respectively — rattled the southern portion of the island commonwealth. And just this morning at 6:06, a magnitude 4.5 earthquake struck the

already beleaguered U.S. territory.

There were no immediate reports of injuries. A number people were killed and thousands left homeless after a 6.4 earthquake rocked the island Tuesday.

As the seismic activity continued, Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett released a statement assuring Puerto Rico residents that they are in the prayers of Virgin Islanders.

"I want everyone and particularly the people of Puerto Rico to know that the people of the Virgin Islands and Americans everywhere are praying for our brothers and sisters and fellow Americans in Puerto Rico," Ms. Plaskett said.

The congresswoman added that she is urging the relevant federal agencies to send necessary support to the commonwealth.

"We must respond swiftly, competently, and with compassion," she said. "After the 2017 hurricanes, the Island has been struck by another natural disaster, causing loss of life, significant property damage and, at least temporarily, another significant power outage."

After days of tremors, came the worst earthquake to hit Puerto Rico in a century. The large-scale aftershocks have some Virgin Islanders on edge.

Ms. Plaskett urged USVI residents to stay aware of the latest news. "I trust that our local VI Territorial Emergency Management Agency will keep our citizens aware of any danger ... Additionally, I remind homeowners to check their home insurance policies for earthquake coverage."