

**YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
November 2013 - December 2014







We are building a Better BVI; a place that is ideal to live, work, visit and do business.

Premier and Minister of Finance  
Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE

We are building a great little Nation.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour  
Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering



Do nothing and nothing happens.

Minister for Communications and Works  
Honourable Mark Vanterpool



We are creating a culture of excellence.

Minister for Education and Culture  
Honourable Myron Walwyn



We are working towards a healthier Virgin Islands.

Minister for Health and Social Development  
Honourable Ronnie W. Skelton





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	5
Stimulating/Fixing the Economy .....	6
Improving the Standard of Living ...	26
Improving Social Services and Healthcare .....	44
Strengthening the Education Sector	66
Protecting our Borders and Enhancing Law, Order and Public Safety .....	84
Infrastructural Development .....	90
Re-establishing/Strengthening Regional and International Relationships .....	100
Legislative Initiatives .....	114







# INTRODUCTION

Dear Fellow Residents of the Virgin Islands:

Thank you for securing a copy of this e-Magazine designed to give you a graphical view of 'Your Government at Work'.

This magazine provides an opportunity for you to see 'at a glance' some of my Government's accomplishments in its third years in office.

We continue to be driven by our mission: *'Putting you the people of these Virgin Islands first'*, through collaborating, consulting, communicating and listening to you the people.

We continue to work for you, driven by seven broad areas:

- Stimulate/Fix the Economy
- Improve the Standard of Living
- Improve Social Services and Healthcare
- Strengthen the Educational Sector
- Protect our Borders and Enhance Law, Order and Public Safety
- Infrastructural Development
- Re-establish/Strengthen Regional and International Relations

I invite you to read for yourself about how we are diligently working towards building a better Virgin Islands for you.



Dr. D. Orlando Smith, OBE  
Premier of the Virgin Islands



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 1. BVI RANKS NUMBER ONE BY OFFSHORE 2020

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) was adjudged the most important offshore financial services jurisdiction according to the 2012 report of the Offshore 2020 - *Opportunities and Challenges Facing the Offshore Industry*, produced by OIL Offshore Incorporation.

The BVI achieved the top position from among 25 other offshore jurisdictions. In addition to its overall top ranking, the BVI also ranked first for asset protection and estate planning, individual tax planning, special purpose vehicles, and investment holding for corporations.



## 2. BVI HOUSE ASIA LAUNCHES FINANCIAL SERVICES SEMINARS



BVI House Asia in Hong Kong launched a series of seminars focused on the British Virgin Islands' (BVI) financial services products. More than 40 Hong Kong lawyers, legal specialists and trust practitioners attended the first seminar on BVI Trust and Estate Law. The seminar was conducted by trust expert Christopher McKenzie in two training sessions held in Central Plaza in Hong Kong. The seminars focused on the unique feature of BVI trust law which have made the BVI one of the world's premier trust jurisdictions. These features include the Virgin Islands Special Trusts Act that creates a special trust regime designed for trusts which hold shares in companies and which enable settlors to retain substantial control by allowing them or those nominated by them to be directors of underlying companies.



### 3. BVI HAILED “LOUIS VUITTON” OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY

The British Virgin Islands was hailed the “Louis Vuitton” of the global financial services industry in November 2013.

Mr. Martin Crawford, Chief Executive of Offshore Incorporations Ltd (OIL), an industry leader in global incorporations referred to the BVI’s status as the leading offshore financial services jurisdiction for

China-based investors, entrepreneurs and wealth segments.

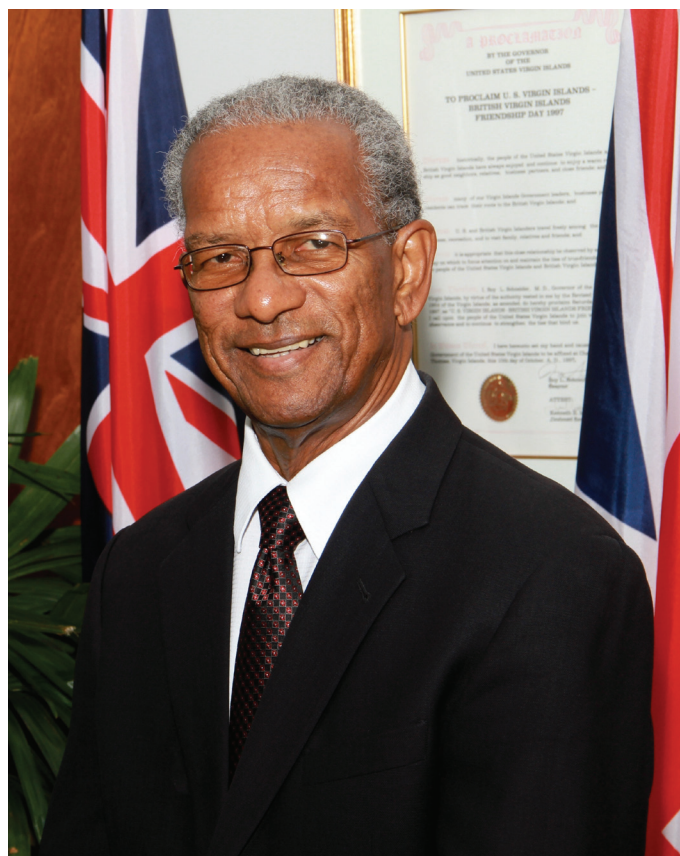
In a presentation titled *Planning for the Future through an Attractive Jurisdiction*, at China Offshore Summit in Shanghai, Crawford said that there are opportunities for non-tax-driven structures such as asset protection, wealth management, funds management,

investment holdings, trading, special purpose vehicles, and listing vehicles for IPOs. “Brand BVI”, he summarised, equaled ‘experience’ and ‘confidence’ on which Chinese investors could rely.

He also cited that 60 percent of the multi-million dollar Chinese-owned properties in London were bought through BVI companies.

### 4. PREMIER LEADS TALKS AT FINANCIAL SERVICES CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE

Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE led discussions at the third Caribbean Conference on the International Financial Services Sector on March 31, 2014 in the Bahamas. The conference, themed: “*The Caribbean Engaging the World in Financial Services*,” was organised by Caribbean Export Development Agency. Premier Smith and fellow panelists chaired the second panel at the conference that focused on the work of G8, G20, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations (UN) and European Union (EU) and the implications for Caribbean international financial centres. Discussions were also held on a number of global initiatives on tax transparency and information exchange.



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 5. BVI INITIALS FINAL TEXT OF FATCA INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

The Government of the Virgin Islands and the Government of the United States concluded negotiations on March 6, 2014 and initialed the final text of an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) in respect of the US Foreign Accounts Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), paving the way for its imminent signing and implementation in the Territory. The initialing of the agreement comes after several months of dialogue with the US Treasury, in which the BVI Government negotiated and received various exceptions for relevant entities such as non-profit organisations and pension plans and their accounts.



## 6. BVI SIGNS INTER-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE U.S. FATCA COOPERATION

The Government of the Virgin Islands took another step towards improving its mechanisms in international cooperation. On June 30, 2014, Premier of the Virgin Islands Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE signed a Model 1B intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in relation to the United States (US) Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) at the Department of Treasury in Washington, DC. This signing allows financial institutions in the Virgin Islands to prepare for the implementation of FATCA.





## 7. GO BVI FINANCIAL SERVICES TRAINING FOR SENIOR PUBLIC OFFICERS



The Government of the Virgin Islands began a series of seminars to provide an opportunity for public officers to learn more about the financial services industry with the launch of the GoBVI Financial Services programme. The training programme was facilitated by BVI International Finance Centre. The topics covered included international cooperation, aircraft and ship registration, products and services and the roles of key agencies in the industry. Officers were encouraged to register for this essential training opportunity to learn more about one of the twin economic pillars of the Territory and to be sensitised to its importance, as well as, their role in supporting the industry.

## 8. NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT COUNCIL LAUNCHED

Government continues to make strides in strengthening its financial legislative framework with the implementation of the Virgin Islands National Risk Assessment Council (NRAC). Over 100 top Government officials and private sector representatives gathered at Maria's by the Sea on April 10, 2014 for the opening ceremony to launch the NRAC. Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE is chairman.

The objective of the NRAC is to ensure general oversight and policy guidance of National Risk Assessment (NRA) exercise. Its specific tasks include the review and approval of reports including the NRA framework from the NRA steering group and other groups, and to make policy decisions on matters required in addressing specific issues.

The Virgin Islands is scheduled to undergo its Fourth Round of Mutual Evaluation by the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force in 2017 based on the International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation.



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 9. BVI GOVERNMENT CHARTS NEW DIRECTION FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY

On August 12, the Government of the Virgin Islands moved to expand and diversify its financial services industry, as well as to protect and strengthen the Territory's reputation as a well-regulated, leading financial services jurisdiction. In its latest efforts, the Government engaged the services of global management consultants - McKinsey & Company to provide technical support to its initiative to chart a new direction in the financial services industry. The team consulted with several committees made up of public sector



officials, private sector practitioners and other BVI international practitioners in Latin America, Europe and Asia.

## 10. BVI FINANCIAL SERVICES CELEBRATE 30 YEARS OF STRONG FINANCIAL LEGISLATION



The BVI International Finance Centre (BVIIFC) celebrated 30 years of the International Business Companies Act (IBC) in August 2014. The IBC Act, which was enacted in August 1984, not only gave rise to the Territory's financial services industry, but created a successful model that has been emulated elsewhere. The Virgin Islands is renowned for Incorporation of Business Companies, which are



used for a myriad of purposes by individuals and corporations globally, thus making the BVI known as one of the favoured offshore financial services centres in the world.



## 11. UK GOVERNMENT PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR BVI FINANCIAL SERVICES



Support for the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and its financial services industry was given by former United Kingdom Member of Parliament and Under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Honourable Mark Simmonds during a fact-finding trip to BVI House Asia in Hong Kong on Friday May 2, 2014. Mr. Simmonds received a presentation from Ms. Elise Donovan Director of BVI House Asia; Deputy Managing Director of the BVI Financial Services Commission, Mr. Kenneth Baker; and several members from the BVI's financial services industry based in the region. The presentation gave an overview of how BVI companies are used across the Asia region, which Mr. Simmonds said was 'extremely helpful and informative'.

## 12. PREMIER TALKS ABOUT FUTURE OF OFFSHORE FINANCIAL CENTRES

In discussions on the future of off-shore financial centres, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, presented his insights at the Foreign Correspondents' Club during a luncheon meeting hosted by the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce on September 10. His presentation was titled: *"Riding the Perfect Storm: Will Offshore and Midshore Jurisdictions Remain Viable?"* Premier Smith highlighted the more than 25-year history the BVI has had with Asian businesses and individuals, helping them gain access to international capital markets, which explains the BVI's critical role today in cross-border investments.





# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 13. BVI TARGETS ASIA FUNDS BUSINESS WITH INVESTMENT SEMINAR

More than 40 practitioners including lawyers, accountants and corporate service providers, attended a seminar on *"Funds and Investment Business: BVI Options"* at the Central Plaza in Hong Kong on March 27, 2014. According to Director of BVI House Asia Elise Donovan, "In the Asia region, where the 'BVI' has become synonymous with business companies, it is important that we provide practitioners with greater exposure to the variety of financial and investment services we offer."



## 14. BVI FEATURED AS 'A REPUTABLE JURISDICTION'

The British Virgin Islands was featured as "A Reputable Jurisdiction" in a special report compiled by the London Media as part of a special feature in the London Stock Exchange's online publication issued in September 2014. The feature titled: *"British Virgin Islands: A Reputable Jurisdiction"* was timely as the Territory celebrates 30 years as a well-regulated financial services jurisdiction. The report highlighted the progress made by the Territory, particularly in the financial services, tourism and aviation sectors.

## 15. BVI 'TAKES IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL' AT CHINESE OFFSHORE SUMMIT

More than 300 Chinese leading financial intermediaries, international trust companies, bankers, lawyers, and corporate service providers learned more about the Virgin Islands' financial services sector during the China Offshore Summit in Beijing, China. The two-day summit was held from May 28 to 29, 2014.

During the Summit, BVI House Asia delivered the presentation '*BVI 2.0 – Taking it to the Next Level*'. The Director of BVI House Asia, Ms. Elise Donovan focused on the use of BVI business companies in China across the past 25 years to today's expanded role in facilitating cross-border transactions in China's increasingly sophisticated financial and economic markets.

"Through more than 30 years' experience and learning about Chinese business and culture, the BVI intimately understands the demands and needs of the market. The BVI has been tried – and it works, it has been tested and has passed with flying colours, and is proven as the jurisdiction that provides the best advantages for Chinese business," Ms. Donovan said. "BVI's success in the Chinese market was not simply luck, but also a combination of providence and hard work. BVI 2.0 is recharged and ready to be the conduit to take Chinese business to the next level."



## 16. BVI HOUSE ASIA CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY!



In September 2014, the Territory observed the first anniversary of the BVI House Asia. This was marked by a commemorative visit to the Asia Pacific Region to foster engaging and deepening relationships with Hong Kong, the home of the Asia Pacific representative - BVI House Asia. This office was established in September 2013 to support and expand the strong relationship that the BVI has had with the Asia Pacific region for over 25 years. With a focus on financial services, BVI House Asia provides a wide range of services to Asian businesses, such as asset protection, property holding, financial management, trading, copyrighting, bespoke trust services and investment business.



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 17. BVI STANDS OUT IN GLOBAL FINANCIAL CENTRES INDEX

In 2014, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) rose four places and was named a top five offshore finance centre in the 15th influential Global Financial Centres Index (GFCI). Overall, the BVI ranked 44th in the world, ahead of 39 other financial centres. The strong rise of the BVI in the GFCI 15 counters the trend for most offshore centres that have seen a decline in their position relative to other financial centres; several losing more than ten places. Premier Smith said this rating is testament to the comprehensive legislative and world class regime for

financial services business that exists in the BVI today.” The GFCI is a twice-annual report which provides profiles, ratings and rankings for a growing list of global financial centres, drawing on two separate sources of data: instrumental factors and responses to an online survey. The GFCI was first published by Z/Yen Group in March 2007 and has subsequently been updated every six months; this particular issue is the 15th GFCI to be published.

## 18. BVI JOINS OECD MULTILATERAL CONVENTION



*“The Multilateral Convention further enhances the information exchange regime currently in effect within the BVI and is firm evidence of our commitment to meet and exceed global standards on tax transparency while yet being a premier jurisdiction to do business in financial services,” Premier Dr. D. Orlando Smith OBE.*

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance on Tax and Administrative Matters (Convention) was extended to the Virgin Islands after the United Kingdom Government deposited a declaration to the OECD on November 21, 2013. The convention provides for multilateral exchange of information between jurisdictions, while respecting the rights of taxpayers by protecting the confidentiality of the information exchanged. The treaty’s extension follows the Government of the Virgin Islands’ commitment to join the convention in the lead up to the G8 Summit in Lough Erne, Northern Ireland.



## 19. PREMIER SMITH: 'THE BVI's ECONOMY HAS FARED WELL'

As the world continues to emerge from the global financial crisis, Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE during his 2014 Budget Address to the Territory said Government had risen to the challenge, delivered the goods, and done extraordinarily well in holding the community together.

In announcing a budget of \$301,746,000, on January 13, 2014 Premier Smith said since his Government took office, the team had been making great strides in safeguarding the BVI's economy. He added that despite tremendous fiscal pressures, government has been able to simultaneously build the Territory's bread and butter economic sector and its reserve fund.

### *Excerpts from 2014 Budget Address:*

Since my Government took office Madam Speaker, we have indeed been planning diligently to secure that advantage for our people. And rightly so, as in governing, diligence begins in large part with budgeting. Three budgets later, I am proud to say that we are turning the corner as will become evident throughout this address. But most obvious is that just past our midterm, and having recently materially paid off large amounts of inherited outstanding bills, we are optimistic and are looking forward to a budget that begins to deliver that advantage for our people.

The patience of our nation was tested during the first two cycles, but our resolve and the resilience of our people have seen us through to today. This Budget, Madam Speaker, builds on our past achievements and seeks to continue to foster our Vision to

build a better Virgin Islands. I am therefore very confident that this Budget Madam Speaker will help to continue our country's

progress towards stability and growth. Madam Speaker you would recall from my previous Budget Addresses that our overarching goal for the people of this Territory has been to improve the quality of life and the standard of living for the people of the British Virgin Islands. As a result, Madam Speaker we are having an on-going conversation with all the people of this Territory including children, investors and community groups. We do not have all the answers.

As your elected representatives we believe that dialogue is important to better understand your expectations and to tap into your vast reserves of experience and knowledge. This conversation, Madam Speaker, has further crystallized our vision for the BVI to create "a prosperous Virgin Islands, that is ideal to live, work, visit, and do business." It has also resulted in a Medium Term Development Strategy with four main goals:

1. A healthy, vibrant and engaged populace, well-prepared to fully participate in the development of the Territory.
2. A thriving and buoyant economy fostering balanced growth through entrepreneurship and trade.
3. Respect for the Territory's natural resources and promotion of sustainability in physical planning and management.



4. And finally; transparency, in governance while ensuring the safety, security and cohesion of the populace.

Madam Speaker, these are lofty goals but it is our considered opinion that our people deserve nothing less. We are determined to see to it that they are achieved, and it is this determination to do what is best for our people as opposed to what is politically expedient, that sets my government apart from other governments that have managed our affairs.

Madam Speaker there are many ways to achieve this vision of a prosperous Virgin Islands but dependence solely on central government or elected representatives for our survival is not one of them. Empowerment of our people with the tools and opportunities to create and manage their own destiny is our preferred way and this is what my Government has been doing.

Along the way, we are instilling, national pride (We now have a BVI song that is sung at all our official celebrations) and together with our people, we are working to make these islands a better place. We are teaching independence, self-reliance, an ethos of helping each other. We believe our citizens must be able to paddle their own canoes, make their own decisions and stand on their own without being indebted to anyone. This is who we were and this is who we will be again under my leadership.

# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 20. BVI AND EU TALK SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith OBE received a courtesy visit from the GOPA Consultants with the European Union (EU) Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) project team on Tuesday, May 20, 2014.

The EU funded project is designed to strengthen the development of SMEs in the British and Dutch Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in the Caribbean. The 42-month SME project is expected to disperse \$15M Euros to participating countries and the BVI in a structured application process.

## 21. ENTREPRENEUR ENHANCES BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

Forty-nine local entrepreneurs are now successful graduates of the National Business Bureau's Power Move Academy Training Programme. The training programme was held from August 2013 to June 2014, and exposed 107 local entrepreneurs to principles to help bring structure to their ideas and enhance their businesses' performance. The training programme is a critical component of one of the key Government initiatives to develop entrepreneurs by teaching them the fundamentals of business.

The National Business Bureau was re-established to ensure economic empowerment and enfranchisement of small businesses.





## 22. GOVERNMENT INKS BERTHING AGREEMENTS WITH DISNEY AND NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINES



In its continued efforts to grow the economy, the Territory can expect to see 425,000 cruise passengers annually from mid-2015, following the signing of berthing agreements on January 17 between the Government of the Virgin Islands with Disney Cruise Lines (DLC) and Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL).

The signing of the agreements came as the Government prepared to move forward with the cruise pier expansion project. Speaking further on these efforts to bolster the tourism industry, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith OBE said, "We must stay ahead of the curve and build a modern facility to accommodate the expectations of the industry and its clientele. We are here to move forward and forge

ahead with enhancing the tourism industry; growing the BVI Business environment; ensuring economic development with increased business opportunities; and in the long term ensure a sustainable tourism industry for the BVI."

He noted that the Territory must sell more than sun, sea and sand. "We must prepare the BVI to keep pace with the development in the cruise industry. We cannot afford to be left behind," Premier Smith remarked.

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains steadfast in its promise to strengthen the tourism industry. The transformation of the current cruise pier into a modern and efficient port facility is therefore expected to significantly enhance the BVI cruise tourism product.



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 23. PREMIER SMITH: 'FOCUSED EFFORTS IN TOURISM HAVE BEEN FRUITFUL'

Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE is looking forward to 2015 as another strong year from the tourism sector, as Government of the Virgin Islands continues its strategic efforts to further develop the sector. While delivering his 2015 Budget Address, Premier Smith stated, "It is clear that these efforts in tourism have yielded much fruit, with this sector now promising to grow and be a stronger contributor to our economy in the years to come. Ultimately this means increased opportunities for our people." Figures presented during the 2015 Budget Address indicate that overnight tourist arrivals for 2013 have increased by four-point-two percent over

2012. This resulted in a record number of more than 365,000 overnight visitors. Meanwhile, the BVI Tourist Board continues to work to build the BVI brand among target markets. As a result of the BVI Tourist Board's investment in the niche market of Meetings, Investments, Conferences and Exhibits (MICE), the Virgin Islands is now a spotlight destination for meetings and incentives planners. The BVI Tourist Board has also launched a new marketing programme with a United States villa operator that has resulted in a 36 percent increase in villa bookings over 2013 – converting to over \$1.8 million in revenue.





**The New York Times** GREAT GETAWAYS



**60 Islands. 1 Unforgettable Summer.** **THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

The British Virgin Islands, with our turquoise seas and secluded white-sand beaches, are an idyllic escape. From world-class sailing and pristine coral reefs to award-winning hotels and exhilarating island-hopping, our tranquil shores provide the ultimate Caribbean escape. Enjoy free nights, resort credits and super savings when you visit the BVI this summer – go to [summer.bviturism.com](http://summer.bviturism.com) for details.





**Peter Island Resort and Spa**  
35% off at this exclusive private island resort.  
[Learn More](#)

**Sugar Mill Hotel**  
Free 3-day vehicle rental with a 4-night stay.  
[Learn More](#)

**BVI Yacht Charters**  
Get 3 nights free on a 10-night charter.  
[Learn More](#)

BVI Tourist Board  
1 West 54th Street, Suite 302, New York, NY 10019  
Tel: (212) 635-6030  
See more at: [www.bviturism.com](http://www.bviturism.com)

**THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**SIGN UP FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS FROM The New York Times**

Did you receive this email from a friend? Get Great Getaways delivered directly to your inbox. Don't forget to add [greatgetaways@nytimes.com](mailto:greatgetaways@nytimes.com) to your address book so you always get the latest deals.

**ABOUT GREAT GETAWAYS**  
Great Getaways is an insider advertising email offering luxury travel deals from premium nytimes.com advertisers. You received this message because you signed up for Great Getaways advertising offers. As a member of the TRUSTe privacy program, we are committed to protecting your privacy.

[Manage Subscriptions](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Change Your Email](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Contact Us](#)

The New York Times Company | Copyright 2014 | NYTimes.com 620 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10018

## 24. BVI FEATURED IN 2014 ROBB REPORT ADVERTORIAL

The BVI was featured in the Robb Report Advertorial June 2014 in partnership BVI International Finance Centre and Virgin Islands Shipping Registry. The US Summer Freedom US campaign with digital promotions with OTA's such as: Orbitz promotion for Summer 2014; Travelzoo banner ads; Budget Traveller; NY Times great getaways.





# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 25. TERRANCE B. LETTSOME INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION PROJECT PROGRESSES



The proposed expansion of the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport forms an important part of the Government's plans to develop the economy. Improved air access, supported by other infrastructural improvements, would facilitate development of the Tourism sector and the substance-based Financial Services sector.

The bids, which range from \$154 million to \$194 million, for the runway extension phase of the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport project were received in

May 2014 and analyzed by the law firm Baker McKenzie, accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and engineering firm Consulmar. After carefully considering the result of the analysis, on July 16, 2014 Cabinet made the decision to move forward with the development of the airport.

After the decision to move forward was made, an investment grade study was commissioned and completed; the financial model previously prepared by PwC was updated to reflect other works beyond the runway extension.



The development of the airport is critical to the economic health of the Territory. The magnitude and importance of a capital project of this nature mandate that due care is taken in arriving at critical decisions thereby ensuring that the Territory receive value for money.

According to the Minister for Natural Resources and Labour Honourable Kedrick Pickering, the objectives set for the project are to:

1. complete the expansion within the shortest timeframe possible without compromising quality and value for money;
2. minimise any government financial support required;
3. adhere to the Protocols for Effective Financial Management;
4. ensure environmental sustainability; and
5. ensure that the national tourism strategy for the Territory is taken into account, more specifically, in terms of number and profile of visitors.



Additionally, Honourable Pickering said that on November 12, 2014 the Government signed a memorandum of understanding with American Airlines in which the airline has made a commitment to giving strong consideration to serving T.B. Lettsome International Airport directly from Miami after the extension is completed, subject to market conditions and approval from the U.S. Government and the Government of the Virgin Islands.



On Wednesday, November 12, 2014 the Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with American Airlines in which the airline has made a commitment to giving strong consideration to serving T.B. Lettsome International Airport directly from Miami after the extension is completed, subject to market conditions and approval from the U.S. Government and the Government of the Virgin Islands.

## 26. DEPUTY PREMIER ATTENDS GLOBAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering attended the Global Airport Development (GAD) Conference in Le Méridien, France to gain additional insight into the airport and aviation industries. The Conference hosted over 300 senior industry representatives, with more than 50 airport investors and international developers, and providers of capital, technology and expertise. During the discussion, participants discussed growth potential and infrastructure requirements of different markets.

# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 27. VIRGIN GORDA RATED NUMBER ONE



On July 2, *Travel and Leisure*, one of the pre-eminent world travel publications announced that Virgin Gorda was rated as the number one Island in the Caribbean and the number eight island in the world for the best in travel. The rating places BVI at the top of other Caribbean destinations surpassing Exumas in the Bahamas; St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands; Bermuda, and St. Lucia.

## 28. PREMIER SAYS WE MUST SELL A SERVICE; WE MUST SELL A NICHE



The Territory's livery operators were encouraged to continue providing memorable authentic BVI experiences to visitors to keep them returning, and with new friends. The sentiments were expressed by Premier and Minister for Tourism, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE as he delivered remarks during the opening ceremony for the Taxi Academy training workshop on August 19.

"We must sell a service. We must sell a niche. We must remind people through a tangible experience of why the BVI is the best destination to enjoy life. We must continue to give people memorable experiences that would keep them coming more and more to the BVI, and with new friends," Premier Smith stated.

On completion of the Taxi Academy, an initiative spearheaded by the Taxi and Livery Commission under the auspices of the Ministry of Communications and Works, taxi drivers would be Caribbean Tourism Certified which is an internationally recognised certification that will enable taxi drivers to renew their taxi licenses.

The Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to improving the Virgin Islands' Tourism product and services as it works to position the Territory as a leader in the Caribbean tourism industry.



## 29. NEW FLIGHTS BETWEEN ANTIGUA AND BVI



In its efforts to better cater to the needs of the Territory's growing international business clientele and visitors, the Government of the Virgin Islands, through the BVI Tourist Board, launched a new concierge air service from Antigua. The new flights connect with the arrival and departure of scheduled British Airways and Virgin Atlantic flights between London Gatwick and Antigua. The connecting flights run twice a week, on Fridays and Saturdays and is operated by locally owned, VI Airlink.

## 30. GOVERNMENT ENHANCES THE JOST VAN DYKE VISITOR EXPERIENCE



The Government of the Virgin Islands, in collaboration with the BVI Tourist Board, is enhancing the visitor experience on Jost Van Dyke with the addition of a Welcome and Information Centre. The facility is part of the Government's commitment to developing the necessary tourism and business structures on Jost Van Dyke.



Speaking during the opening ceremony on May 13, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE stated, "My Government is committed to growing the tourism sector of the entire British Virgin Islands. As Minister for Tourism I must say that Jost Van Dyke is truly a diamond in the Territory."

# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 31. JOST VAN DYKE TAXI ASSOCIATION HAILED AS A PROGRESSIVE BODY

In handing over the keys to the new Jost Van Dyke Taxi Stand on May 13, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE commended the Jost Van Dyke Taxi Association and its members for their diligent efforts as a progressive body operating within the Territory. In his remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Premier Smith highlighted the importance of private and public sector partnerships within the tourism industry. He noted that the new taxi stand was the result of such collaboration. The JVD Taxi Stand was completed to ensure that visitors are easily transported, through coordinated efforts, from the ferry dock to their accommodations, excursions or dining places.





## 32. BVI FOOD FETE - A CULINARY JOURNEY OF BRAND BVI

BVI Tourist Board launched BVI Food Fete, a month-long culinary journey at various restaurants in the Territory, using the senses to create the ultimate unforgettable culinary experience. Throughout November 2013 and 2014, BVI chefs and visiting chefs offered an array of delectable cuisine during events such as Local Fridays, BVI Restaurant Week, Anegada Lobster Festival and more. BVI Food Fete highlights local restaurants as part of the BVI tourism product. BVI Food Fete also showcased the tantalising and mouthwatering cuisine of the British Virgin Islands, its culture and warm customer service which reminds visitors, and their friends, why the BVI is one of the top Caribbean destinations in the world.

The BVI Tourist Board has worked closely with small hotels and resort properties such as Peter Island Resort, Scrub Island and Rosewood Little Dix Bay, as well as home grown local establishments such as Callwood's Rum Distillery to highlight what is truly BVI.

In addition, many participating hotels offered an array of culinary events with the best of Caribbean cuisine. Virgin Gorda has always led the BVI in Tourism and Anegada and Jost Van Dyke are fast growing in this space also. In fact, countless visitors from the cruise lines flock to enjoy the wonder and foods of the outer Islands, and the annual Anegada Lobster Fest is one such example, which attracted over 900 visitors.



# Improving the Standard of Living

## 33. PREMIER SMITH - "EMPLOYMENT FIGURES ON THE RISE"

Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE announced earlier this year that more persons in the Territory are gainfully employed and the Virgin Islands is beginning to see a positive turn around in the job market according to early 2013 figures from the Social Security Board and the Central Statistics Office.

The preliminary figures from the Social Security Board and the Central Statistics Office indicated that for the first six months of

2013, when compared to the first six months of 2012, there was an overall 1.2 percent growth in the number of persons employed.

The Premier said this increase translated into 198 more persons who were employed in 2013 than in 2012. The Premier also noted that there was a \$6 million increase in the total salaries paid to employees in 2013.

## 34. FORMATION OF BVI MINIMUM WAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPROVED

The Government of the Virgin Islands formed a Minimum Wage Advisory Committee to investigate the working conditions of various professions, and make recommendations on the minimum basic wage that should be paid. The committee was formed in accordance with the Virgin Islands Labour Code 2010 Part 3, Section 38 (1)(e) and has been approved by Cabinet. In accordance with the Labour Code 2010, the committee members will include a chairman, vice-chairman, and at least one representative from various sectors including shops and stores, hotel and commerce, restaurants, building industry, workers and youth, as well as the Central Statistics Office, the Virgin Islands Christian Council and the sister islands. The committee will also be advised by the Financial Secretary and the Labour Commissioner.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering said that the goal of his Ministry is to see a fair and responsible system for the social and economic advancement of people in the Territory.



## 35. LABOUR ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL LAUNCHED

The Government of the Virgin Islands officially launched the Territory's first ever Labour Arbitration Tribunal in November 2014 as a necessary component to the process for settling labour disputes. The tribunal was established in accordance with Section 29 of the Virgin Islands Labour Code, 2010.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering said that the goal is to ensure that the Territory's labour market functions properly and meets international standards.

The new Labour Arbitration Tribunal is headed by Chairman Mr. Paul Dennis, QC who explained that parties to a labour dispute will not be referring complaints or disputes directly to the Tribunal. He added that the body will be providing a third level of adjudication.



The tribunal will function as an arbitral body and initial complaints and disputes will continue to be deferred to the Labour Commissioner, who will attempt to resolve such disputes. If a solution is not derived at that level, then the labour commissioner will defer the dispute to the Minister. If the minister is unable to come to a solution, the dispute will be deferred to the Tribunal. The tribunal will only respond to cases referred from the Minister.

The Deputy Premier coined the launch of the new Labour Arbitration Tribunal as a 'red-letter day' for government and assured citizens and residents that integrity, fairness and professionalism will prevail as he does all in his power to ensure that the labour sector is properly regulated and that it works to the benefit of all.

# Improving the Standard of Living

## 36. GOVERNMENT STRATEGISES TO MAKE FISHING THIRD ECONOMIC PILLAR

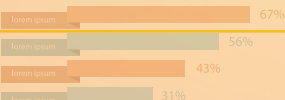
The Government of the Virgin Islands announced last year that reviving of the fishing industry is important in moving towards the path for economic growth and sustainability. Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE in his 2013 budget address said that this initiative is a strategy towards making the Territory less vulnerable, adding, "We have already begun to explore the development of the fishing industry as this holds much promise by way of job creation in all aspects of its operation from fishing to export."

Amendments will also be made to the Fisheries Act, and this will be guided by the stated needs of the fishing community. Minister of Natural Resources and Labour Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering said that Government will continue its work in putting the fishing industry in the focal point of the economic development.

"We have done significant work to put our fishing industry on a firm footing. As we build on the foundation that we have established, I think we are creating millionaires in the fishing industry. The resources are there and they belong to us. We have a 200 mile exclusive fisheries zone that belongs to us. We have to show the fishermen how to bring those fish in and make the money and ultimately build the future they want for their families and for this country."



AUTE IRURE DOLOR IN REPREHENDERIT





## 37. TEMPORARY TREATMENT PLANT BRINGS SIGH OF RELIEF IN GREENLAND



The Government of the Virgin Islands reiterated its commitment to finding a solution to the sewage problem in the Greenland Tortola, with the installation of a temporary sewage treatment plant in June 2014. Acting Premier at the time, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering noted that the solution had been long in coming. He said the situation was severe, and was creating severe environmental and health complications for residents and passersby. As such, Government sought a quick and urgent temporary solution in order to improve the living conditions in Greenland. The Special Projects Unit, through the Ministry of Communications and Works, was commissioned to come up with an action plan and design to solve the issue.



I speaking about the long awaited relief for the people of Greenland, Member for the House of Assembly and Representative for the Eighth District Honourable Marlon Penn said, "No longer will the residents of Greenland, particularly our youth, have to worry about being splashed with sewage by passing cars. No longer will they have to worry about the unbearable stench in the streets. No longer will we have to worry about our loved ones in the cemetery being drenched with sewage. I propose to you today, a promise made, a promise kept, a promise delivered."



# Improving the Standard of Living

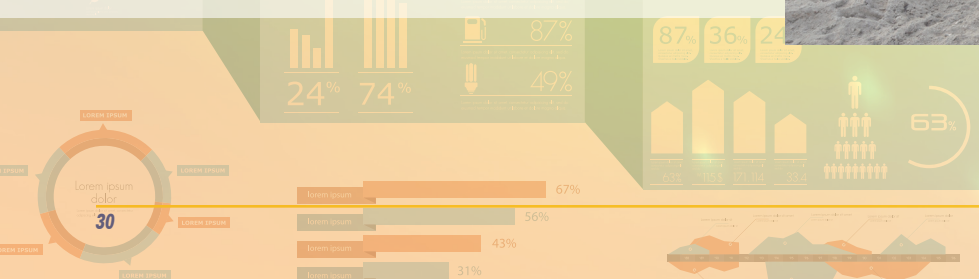
## 38. GOVERNMENT DELIVERS SAFE POTABLE WATER TO RESIDENTS

The Water and Sewerage Department implemented a water main flushing programme in order to deliver safe and portable water to consumers in March 2014. The water main flushing programme, is an initiative implemented annually from mid-March through July because of the frequent complaints by consumers about low pressure and rusty water. The programme aims to deliver safe portable water to all consumers and ensure that the reservoirs are cleaned. Additionally, it allows the department to verify that the hydrants are fully functional and it reduces the buildup of mineral and other sediments, which over time will affect water quality and pressure.



## 39. RED BAY DOCK DEVELOPMENT IN FULL SWING

In an effort to further expand and make the Territory's fisheries more proficient, plans were put into action for the re-development of the Red Bay Fisherman's Dock. Government commenced work in this area as a part of the larger East End, Fat Hog's Bay Harbour Development Project. Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering said that improving the Territory's fisheries is very important. "The Ministry's efforts to do so are a natural, next-step, to improving the economy and building a better BVI," he said.





## 40. GOVERNMENT TEMPORARILY WAIVES PROPERTY TAX

The Government reiterated its commitment to improving the quality and standard of living of the people of the Territory by instituting a period of amnesty from June 1 to December 31, 2013 to allow property tax payments to be made without penalty to the Inland Revenue Department. The announcement was made by Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, who said that the period of amnesty was to allow taxpayers to become current with their property tax arrears, without being charged for the outstanding penalties.

“This initiative will allow property owners to become up-to-date on their taxes, without placing the added burden of penalties on their already stretched finances”, the Premier said.



## 41. CARROT BAY POST OFFICE OPENED! FULL RANGE OF SERVICES PROVIDED

Carrot Bay and the surrounding communities have a new post office, which is now open for business, following an opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on July 31. The new post office is now serving residents on the western end of Tortola by providing a full range of postal services including philatelic services, stamp sales, eZone services,

money order services, Amerijet services, mailbox services, retail sales, an internet cafe and the payment of bills. During the ceremony Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE said that within the past six years there has been a serious thrust to modernise the Territory’s postal services which now includes Ezone, Amerijet, the introduction of postal codes and new software to ensure more efficient operations, just to name a few. The BVI Post aims to build continued confidence in postal communication by providing efficient and dependable mail services aimed at current and developing needs.



# Improving the Standard of Living

## 42. CARROT BAY DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY MEETING

Government meets with members of the Carrot Bay community to update residents on the findings of the draft plan and report for the Carrot Bay Community Development Plan 2010 – 2020. Discussions also included policy decisions regarding land subdivisions. This meeting was in keeping with the Physical Planning Act to bring about orderly and coordinated physical development of Carrot Bay and its environs; to conserve community resources; to guide the pattern, intensity and timing of the use of land; and to promote the health, safety, economic well-being and general welfare of the people in the community.



## 43. DEPUTY PREMIER ATTENDS ASSESSMENT OF ECOSYSTEMS CONFERENCE

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering represented the Territory at a leaders conference on Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their services in Europe.

Honourable Pickering attended the conference on behalf of Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. D. Orlando Smith, OBE who is also the chairman of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association.

The conference provided a platform to present the work that has already been undertaken by the Member States, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency (EEA). The event reinforced the engagement of the Member States and ensured the sustained commitment of the associated European Commission services and the EEA.





## 44. PROTECTED AREAS TO PRESERVE LOCAL BVI BIODIVERSITY

In an effort to safeguard and preserve local marine and terrestrial habitats and wildlife, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour in collaboration with the National Parks Trust and the Conservation and Fisheries Department have recommended new areas to be managed within the system of protected areas in the Virgin Islands.

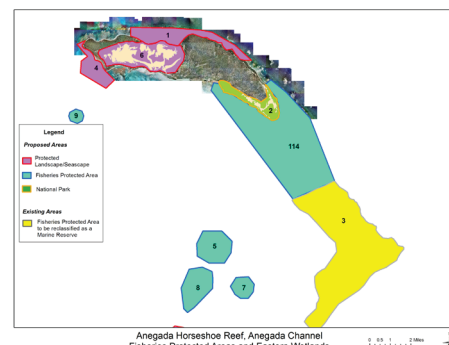
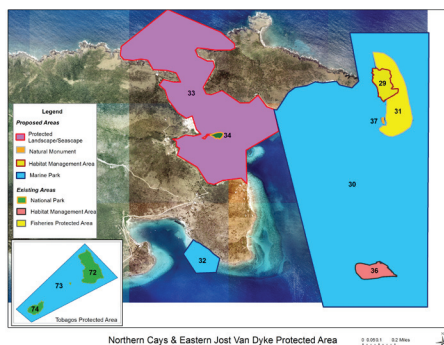
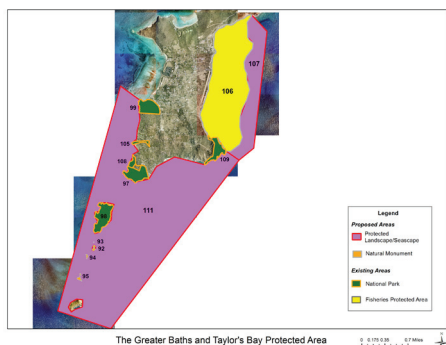
The five broad areas identified for protection in the Virgin Islands are: (1) the Western Salt Ponds/North

Coast of Anegada; (2) the Pomato and Ruffin Points; (3) the Anegada Horseshoe Reef/Anegada Channel Fisheries; (4) the Greater Baths and Taylors Bay and (5) the Northern Cays and Eastern Jost Van Dyke area.

Acting Director of the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, Ms. Lynda Varlack said, "Through the protection of additional areas in our Territory, we can anticipate larger fish stocks, an enhanced ecotourism industry,

healthier reefs and increased nature-based recreational opportunities."

Acting Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer, Mr. Kelvin Penn added, "We are currently encouraging discourse and requesting public participation and opinion concerning the areas selected. Interested persons can view maps and submit their comments using a form which they may download at [www.bvinpt.org](http://www.bvinpt.org)."



## 45. LAUNCHING OF THE DARWIN INITIATIVE PROJECT FOR THE MAPPING OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



The Darwin Initiative Project was launched to map BVI's terrestrial ecosystems thus filling gaps within the proposed protected area network and draft a management plan for forests based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) ecosystem based approach. In addition, the project highlighted the threatened native species found within forest ecosystems.

# Improving the Standard of Living

## 46. GOVERNOR IMPRESSED WITH PROGRESS OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT WORK

Chairman of the National Disaster Management Council, His Excellency Boyd McCleary expressed satisfaction with the progress of disaster management work in the British Virgin Islands. He acknowledged the support of the Premier and Ministers of Cabinet in advancing the disaster management agenda.

"We could not have achieved what we have without a full engagement of the Premier and his team and I am confident, having seen the passage of the new Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy through Cabinet that their support will continue. I am confident too that the BVI will continue to make further advancements over the next few years and we will get further accolades for the work that it does here and in the wider Caribbean," he said.

## 47. GOVERNMENT PROVIDES TRAINING TO ANEGADA ZONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT TEAM

The Department of Disaster Management (DDM) has been working in collaboration with BVI Red Cross and the Virgin Islands Fire and Rescue Service to provide training for the Anegada Zonal Disaster Management team. In addition to basic disaster response, team members were trained in First Aid and fire suppression. The team elected its first executive body on November 2012. Mrs. Melanie Faulkner-Smith serves as

Chairperson of the team, while Ms. Lisa Vanterpool serves as Deputy Chairperson and Ceon Levons as secretary. The three-member executive has a mandate to spearhead the team's work in rolling out the community-based disaster risk reduction programme for the island and coordinate regular meetings of the general membership as well as ensure close collaboration with the District Officer. The nine-member team became certified emergency

responders following basic training in disaster response. With the training provided, the team can now adequately provide emergency support in the event of a disaster or hazard impact.





## 48. BVI CERTIFIES FIRST TEEN COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



The British Virgin Islands continues to play a leading role among member states of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), with the certification of the first Teen Community Emergency Response Team (Teen CERT) in the region.

The Department of Disaster Management spearheaded the pilot initiative in collaboration with the BVI Red Cross. The students were exposed to various disaster preparedness and response skills including water safety and rescue, basic medical aid and fire suppression techniques.

## 49. BVI ACHIEVES TSUNAMI READY RECOGNITION

The BVI is Tsunami Ready! The recognition was bestowed on the Territory in April by the United States based National Weather Service which piloted the initiative in the United States to promote tsunami preparedness as a collaborative effort in vulnerable communities. The recognition is usually granted after communities are able to demonstrate work undertaken to improve the safety of residents and visitors in vulnerable areas.



# Improving the Standard of Living

## 50. SHARKS AND RAYS IMPORTANT TO THE TERRITORY'S MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering signed the Fisheries (Protected Species) Order, 2014, on May 19 to promote reef preservation through increased protection of the Territory's sharks and rays. This is a significant step in furthering the growth of fisheries in the Territory.

Minister Pickering said, "The Government of the Virgin Islands is dedicated to protecting and stimulating the resources of the Territory. The protection of these two specific species is essential as we have come to realise that their presence is vital to the existence of healthy reefs along with a healthy fishing sector."



Sharks and rays remove sick fishes and dead fish carcasses from the ocean. Without removal the fishes may cause and spread diseases that could be devastating for other common reef fish that sustain the local fisheries.

The Government seeks to ensure that the environment is well managed, protected and preserved to maintain the unique ecological features and natural beauty of the Virgin Islands.

## 51. RESEARCHERS TO HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF REEFS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour, a team of marine and social scientists from Newcastle University to conduct research on coral reefs and coastal communities in the Virgin Islands to determine how climate change affects the reefs. The researchers were in the Territory for three months conducting interviews, organising workshops and communicating with people who work with coral reefs. The information collected will be shared with Government and used at the international level to help scientists understand how reefs might change in the future.



## 52. TERRITORY WIDE CLEAN-UP EFFORTS INTENSIFY AS PART OF BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVE

The Department of Waste Management in collaboration with The British Virgin Islands Tourist Board began a series of Island-wide clean-ups throughout the Territory in May to promote a healthy and clean Virgin Islands. As part of the beautification project, the department initiated a campaign for the removal of derelict vehicles throughout the Territory.





# Improving the Standard of Living

## 53. PRESERVING OUR NATIONAL PARK



On July 15, the National Parks Trust signed a contract with Tarris Hill Associates Ltd., signaling the beginning of works at four national parks namely The Rock Iguana, Anegada; Sage Mountain Park, Tortola; The Copper Mine, and The Baths, Virgin Gorda.

There will be several upgrades including construction of visitor centres at The (1) Rock Iguana Head Start Facility; (2) the entrance of the Sage Mountain Park on Tortola; and, (3) at The Copper Mine National Park, Virgin Gorda.

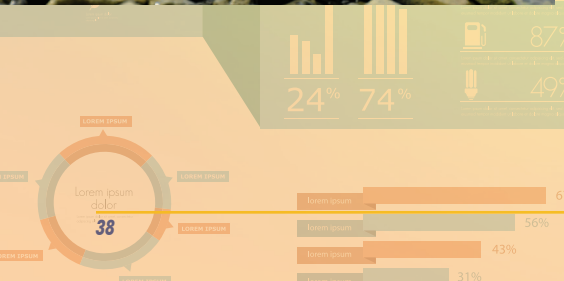
Additionally, the contracts include works for two vending units at The Baths National Park on Virgin Gorda and are expected to be completed by the first quarter of 2015.

## 54. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION POLICY PASSED



Representatives from Caribbean nations, finance institutions and top-tier renewable energy providers came to the Virgin Islands for the three-day summit on Creating Climate Wealth (CCW). These series of project-based workshops are aimed at helping islands implement near-term, demonstrative renewable solutions in schools, hospitals, public transport, tourism and utility scale renewable energy in each country. Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering said that the Ministry is fully committed to sustainable solutions for our Territory, in terms of energy use and the environment.

"We will continue to focus our efforts towards mitigating the effects of climate change and it is my hope that key persons from the energy sector can assist us in reaching our future energy efficiency aspirations. We stand to benefit greatly from the conversations to be held here; the proposals, outcomes and recommendations," the Minister said.





## 55. VULNERABILITY AND DISASTER RISK PROFILE DEVELOPED FOR ANEGADA

A vulnerability and disaster risk profile was developed for Anegada with direct funding from the United Nations Development Programme in November 2013. The first draft of that profile was presented to the residents and Manager at the Department of Disaster Management Ms. Sharlene DaBreo said creating the risk profile entailed keen observation of the community to identify potential risks as well as interaction with the residents through the use of the Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment surveys developed by the International Federation of the Red Cross to determine their level of disaster preparedness.



## 56. NEW SENSORS INSTALLED ON TIDE GAUGE, IMPROVED TSUNAMI WARNINGS



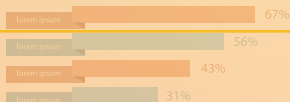
The seismic monitoring network in the Virgin Islands received a significant boost with the installation of sensors on the Territory's tide gauge.

The tide gauge is located near the BVI Fisheries Complex in Baugher's Bay and is part of a network of about seven tide gauges around the Caribbean which work together with the seismic stations to generate alerts if an earthquake occurs. There are two sensors on the tide gauge, one of which will serve as the back-up to continue providing data in the event that the primary sensor fails. The tide gauge is expected to help with the tsunami warning system and observing sea level rise and other long-term changes in the coastline.

# Improving the Standard of Living

## 57. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PROJECT LAUNCHED IN VIRGIN ISLANDS

Government in collaboration with the the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) launched the new Global Climate Change Alliance Project on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Management in the Virgin Islands in June. The project, is supported by the European Union to the tune of 10.6 million Euros, and targets the nine OECS member states. It is geared at improving the region's natural resource base resilience to the impacts of climate change through effective and sustainable land management policy, capacity, awareness, and practices.





## 58. EAST END RESIDENTS TRAINED IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Close to 40 persons from the East End/Long Look community learned about disaster preparedness and mitigation and concluded their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. They represented the largest group of persons to be trained in the sessions facilitated by the BVI Red Cross and the Department of Disaster Management (DDM). Through their training, CERTs develop the capacity to perform data gathering,

locate mass-casualties requiring professional help, assess situations requiring professional rescues, conduct simple fire-fighting tasks, undertake light search and rescue, conduct damage evaluation of structures and apply triage and first aid. CERTs represent an important asset in any national level disaster management programme and are even more critical in small islands with the type of geographical spread that exists in the British Virgin Islands.



# Improving the Standard of Living

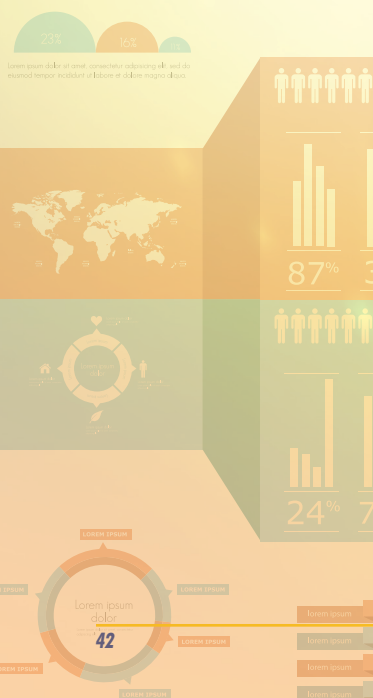
## 59. BVI EVALUATED FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION

The British Virgin Islands (BVI) will soon know whether its National Disaster Management Programme (NDMP), led by the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), has met the required standards and can be considered for accreditation from the United States based Emergency Management Accreditation Programme (EMAP).

An eight person team, comprising members of the EMAP Technical Committee was in the Territory in December to evaluate the NDMP against the 64 EMAP standards and determine whether the Territory has achieved the requirements for conditional or full accreditation. EMAP Executive Director, Ms. Nicole Ishmael explained that EMAP seeks to foster “excellence and accountability in emergency management and homeland security programmes, by establishing credible standards applied

in a peer review accreditation process. The vision of EMAP is to ensure safer communities through measurable standards of excellence for emergency management programmes.”

The BVI was commended for its leadership role in seeking the voluntary accreditation as it is the first among its peers to seek the EMAP accreditation. Following the assessment, the review committee will present a report on its findings to the EMAP Commission and a decision on accreditation will be made within 60 days. Should the BVI receive accreditation, it will join the 24 states in the USA that have already received the full accreditation as well as the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and Virginia Tech University. The accreditation is valid for five years.





---

## 60. GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO GREENHOUSE PROJECT COMPLETION

The Government of the Virgin Islands reiterated its commitment to the completion of the Greenhouse Project in Paraquita Bay. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with International Business and Trade (IBT) LLC, the company from whom the greenhouse technology was purchased. The MoU outlines the responsibilities of both parties going forward. The successful execution of the MoU will place the Territory in a position to begin production during the last quarter of 2015.



The project consists of three greenhouses made up of seven entities and it has been agreed that IBT will complete all the greenhouses. Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering said that all of the greenhouses will be fully operational by the time this process is complete.

“We will then negotiate for them to operate one of the greenhouses, which is one-third of the greenhouses and this we will use, from the Government’s point, as a laboratory,” Dr. Pickering explained. He said that the H. L. Stoutt Community College, the Virgin Islands Technical Vocational School and other local persons who are interested in the technology of the greenhouses will be invited to be a part of the initiative. When completed the greenhouses will produce fresh produce for the Territory.

The Minister stated that these types of institutions and interested persons, the Minister stated, are needed for the transfer of skills which will help to make the greenhouse technology functional in the BVI. He said that the second, one-third, will be leased to private entities, and two local entities that have already indicated their interest. The other one-third will be leased to local farmers. The agreements allow Government to focus only on the greenhouses in Tortola at this time. Completion of the Greenhouses in Virgin Gorda will be done at a later date.

# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 61. 'A RED LETTER DAY'- THE OPENING OF THE NEW PEEBLES HOSPITAL



The Government delivered on its promise to provide a better healthcare system to the people of the Virgin Islands by officially opening the new Peebles Hospital on December 17. The day was declared a “red-letter” day by Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE who declared that the opening is evidence that the bar of healthcare has been raised.

The history of the hospital started in 1922 when then Commissioner of the BVI Major Hubert P. Holmes organised to have three 12 by 18 feet wooden cottages dismantled and re-erected on the waterfront to use as wards. These cottages together with an outhouse served as the Territory’s first hospital. In 1966, the old Cottage Hospital was renamed Peebles Hospital in honour of Major Hubert Peebles D.F.O who commissioned the cottage hospital on his arrival in 1920.

Today, the New Peebles Hospital stands on 150, 000 square foot of floor space and is expected to significantly improve the standard of health care delivery in the Virgin



Islands by providing a wide range of services.

The first floor of the hospital houses several units. They are Facilities Management, Bio-Medical Engineering, Central Procurement, Nutrition and Dietetics, Pharmacy, Admissions and Billing and Security.



On the second floor of the hospital, there are the Medical Records unit, Physiotherapy Unit, Social Services Unit, Central Sterile Supply department and a chapel.

The third floor houses the Emergency Department, Medical Imaging Unit, Medical and Surgical Unit, Psychiatric Unit, Intensive Care Unit, Women's and Children's services in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatric services. Significant features of the fourth floor is the three operating theatre suites and Post Anesthesia Care.

In an address at the opening of the hospital, Premier Smith, explained that for decades the Government has been making steady progress in the Territory's healthcare delivery system.

Premier Smith said, "We boast a comprehensive public health network with clinics throughout the Territory. We saw the expansion of our medical services with the addition of specialist services at the Peebles Hospital, provided by many of our own local doctors, so that our community could be offered modern and efficient treatment and we saw the professional growth and development of our nurses."

The Premier outlined that the new Peebles Hospital comes at a critical time when healthcare technology and knowledge are making enormous strides.

He said giving healthcare professionals the tools they

need to care for the people of the Territory is a smart and strategic investment in a stronger economy. He further added that his Government remains committed to strengthening the health care system to become even more responsive to the needs of the population.

Minister for Health and Social Development, the Honourable Ronnie W. Skelton said that on the assumption of office in 2003, the Government commenced the development of plans, and the organising of financing for the hospital project. The contract for construction works was signed in January 2007. He added that when Government took office for the second time in 2011, the completion of the new hospital was a central element of its vision for the advancement of the Territory healthcare system.

"Here we are at the end of 2014 – the prospect and promise of a state-of-the-art hospital facility is now a reality," Minister Skelton said.



The Minister for Health further stated that work to improve the Territory's health infrastructure is not finished yet. He outlined that several sections of the existing hospital will be refurbished to accommodate outpatient specialist clinics, mental and dental health services, doctors' offices, and an emergency 911 dispatch centre. He said that the

# Improving Social Services & Healthcare



feasibility of creating a Dependent Care Unit as an extension of the Adina Donovan Home to accommodate residents in need of long term nursing care is also being explored. Upgrade will also be done to community clinics.

Minister Skelton said the goal is to expand the range of services and operating hours of clinics in strategic locations to better meet the primary care needs of the people of the Virgin Islands.

He stated that Government remains committed to disease prevention, early detection, and treatment of conditions such as high blood pressure. He said maintaining a focus on individuals, families, and communities is essential for achieving better health outcomes.





## 62. PLEDGE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED FOR OUTFITTING THE NEW PEEBLES HOSPITAL

Health gears remain in drive since the new Peebles Hospital Pledge Programme was officially launched by Minister for Health and Social Development Honourable Ronnie W. Skelton at a press conference on February 13. The new Peebles Hospital Pledge Programme was developed through a joint venture between the Ministry of Health and Social Development and the British Virgin Islands Health Services Authority to accept

and process all donations towards outfitting the new hospital with the necessary equipment.



## 63. PEEBLES HOSPITAL BIDDING TO BE MORE 'BABY FRIENDLY'



Women delivering babies at Peebles Hospital can look forward to improved maternity services and nutrition counselling and support now that the Ministry of Health and Social Development in collaboration with the BVI Health Services Authority has embarked on a campaign to promote breastfeeding among mothers. The 'baby friendly' hospital

initiative is a global programme sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Ministry of Health and Social Development and the BVI Health Services Authority are also working to finalise a National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy, and Hospital Breastfeeding Policy, which are among the steps required to achieve compliance with the global strategy for infant and young child feeding.



# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 64. IMPROVEMENTS AT BVI HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY

The BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) conducted a full assessment project to improve all services offered to patients. Specific initiatives have already been implemented to improve the quality of care and customer service.

The Pharmaceutical Unit is in the final stages of developing the BVIHSA's formulary, which will improve the availability of essential and new medicines in the Territory. This process will also aid the Unit with appropriate budgeting for medicines.

As part of the ongoing training and improvement for the BVIHSA's medical staff, the Continued Medical Education (CME) sessions resumed in November 2013. The goals of the CME sessions include keeping the medical practitioners at the BVIHSA, and private sector up to date on new information, medical techniques and treatment methods, and to identify medical gaps within the organisation.

BVIHSA's board member Professor E. Walrond conducted training on Ethics and Ethical issues in the Health industry. Additionally, training for asthma care was conducted by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Pharmaceutical Procurement Service.

In an effort to ensure that the hospital become fully accredited if it is to take advantage of Telemedicine and Medical Tourism opportunities in the global market place, the BVIHSA Accreditation Committee has reviewed the three most well-known international accreditation bodies, the Det Norsky Veritas certification, Accreditation Canada, and Joint Commission International Standards. In consultation with the Ministry, BVIHSA selected the Joint Commission International Standards, as this body is the most internationally recognised accreditation group.

Work continues as the Ministry and the BVIHSA prepare to occupy the New Peebles Hospital, which is a major infrastructural component of our National Health Reform Strategy.





## 65. NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY UPDATE

On December 17, during the Third Sitting of the Third Session of the Second House Of Assembly of the Virgin Islands, Minister for Health and Social Development Honourable Ronnie W. Skelton highlighted some accomplishments on Government's holistic National Health Strategy, a comprehensive strategy that include the reduction and prevention of Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases; improvements at the BVI Health Services Authority; affiliation with HIMA Health to provide all of the needed services not currently available in the Territory; and a National Waste Management Strategy to address our waste management challenges.

### National Strategy for the Reduction and Prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases

- The implementation of the national plan for the reduction and prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases has started. Under the auspices of the Interdepartmental Technical Working Group, a short-term action plan has been developed with timelines through the year 2016. This plan coordinates the activities to be undertaken by selected public and private sector agencies.
- Four community-based Health and Wellness Committees have already been formed in East End/Long Look, Belle Vue/Hope Hill and Long Trench, Cane Garden Bay and surrounding communities as well as on Virgin Gorda. The goals of these wellness committees are to promote and coordinate community led activities such as backyard gardening, healthy cooking, physical fitness activities, while empowering individuals in the community to take responsibility for their health and make healthier lifestyle choices.
- The Ministry in collaboration with the BVI Health Services Authority has also created a Chronic Disease Management Committee in support of the Holistic National Health Strategy. This committee was created to oversee the management of patients within the community with chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, kidney disease and asthma. It is recognised that through early detection, diagnosis and effective management people will be able to prevent complications and reduce the cost of treating these conditions.

## 66. NATIONAL HEALTH STRATEGY TO INCLUDE CROSS MINISTRY COLLABORATION

The Interdepartmental Technical Working Group continued advocacy efforts in promoting a healthier Virgin Islands in 2014. The strategy encompasses guided principles that include utilising a population health approach; employing a whole society and whole of Government approach; and reducing inequities in health status. The meeting was a follow-up to one held in 2013 where members of the Technical Working Group met with senior officials from the various ministries and departments to plan and review the strategy and develop a short term Action Plan for 2014 to 2016.



# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 67. NEW CLINIC ON VIRGIN GORDA COMING SOON

The people of Virgin Gorda can look forward to a new clinic as the Government of the Virgin Island continues to forge ahead with the project. Minister for Health and Social Development Honourable W. Skelton during a House of Assembly meeting on June 13, 2014 said "The people of Virgin Gorda have been asking for such a facility for quite some time. As a matter of fact, Madam Speaker, long before the thought crossed my mind about entering the political arena, they identified the need for such a facility. After much consultation with the Virgin Gorda community, designs were developed and construction drawings were subsequently completed to reflect the feedback received."

In June 20, 2014 Government tendered the construction works. The new Nurse Iris O'Neal Medical Centre will be a phased development project, which is estimated to take 18-24 months to be completed. It will gradually expand in its services over time as required by the growing Virgin Gorda community.

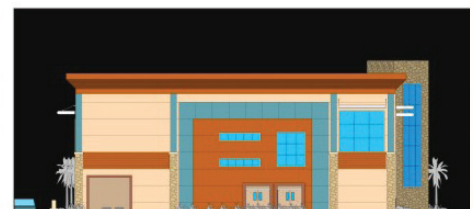
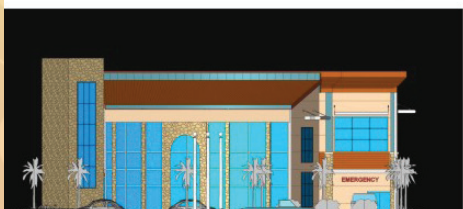
When completed, the New Nurse Iris O'Neal Medical Centre will be a modern facility designed to handle most medical situations that will arise in Virgin Gorda. It will be equipped to stabilise patients needing emergency care and prepare them for transport to our new Peebles Hospital. Additionally, the emergency rooms will be opened 24 hours with medical staff on call to handle emergency situations.

The wide array of services will provide the people of Virgin Gorda and Anegada the opportunity to remain closer to home while accessing healthcare services that they need.



**The Ministry of Health  
and Social Development  
PRESENTS THE  
Nurse Iris O'Neal  
Medical Centre**

**Community Meeting  
Tuesday May 7 at 7 p.m.**





## 68. AFFILIATION WITH HIMA HEALTH TO PROVIDE ALL OF THE NEEDED SERVICES NOT CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN THE TERRITORY

Persons in the Territory, as well as those from other Eastern Caribbean islands are increasingly utilising the BVIHSA/HIMA Health Physician Specialty Clinics for diagnosis and treatment in specialty areas. Prior to these clinics being offered at the BVI Health Services Authority, patients had to travel overseas, which was expensive and a great inconvenience. This affiliation with HIMA has already begun to generate an additional revenue stream for the BVIHSA and its full potential is yet to be realised.

Over 50 medical professionals, from the public and private sector, attended a rheumatology update conducted by Dr. Jose Ramrez from Hiora Health, Puerto Rico.



## 69. TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGES WOMEN IN HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS

The Office of Gender Affairs highlighted women in health care professions during March 2014 in observance of International Women's Day. Gender Affairs Coordinator Ms. Lorolie Connor, said that this year's theme, '*Inspire Change*' coincided with the presently changing health care system in the Territory. She also said that throughout the years of celebrating women, a suggestion came from members of the public to acknowledge women in particular professions and that suggestion was supported during 2014, starting with health.



# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 70. 'BREAK THE SILENCE' AGAINST CHILD ABUSE AND 'EMBRACE AUTISM'

Residents of the Virgin Islands were called to “Break the Silence” in observance of Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month as well as to embrace Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) during Autism Awareness Month in April. Activities included various television and radio appearances, infomercials and the Drive Blue/Wear Blue activity, that highlighted the positive message of supporting families and strengthening our Virgin Islands community.



## 71. CHILD PROTECTION PRACTICES ENHANCED IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Virgin Islands now has enhanced strategies for detecting and reporting Child Sexual Abuse Cases following Government's participation in a sub-regional workshop on 'Responding to and Managing Child Sexual Abuse' in the United Kingdom Overseas Territories. The workshop was conducted to facilitate greater harmonisation of approaches toward reporting and reducing the rate of child sexual abuse across the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States(OECS) that are consistent with the Revised Treaty of Basseterre. The workshop also focused on the deepening of the integration process in the OECS region.





## 72. STATUS OF CHILDREN ACT PROVIDES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN

The Status of Children Act, 2014 was passed on March 27 allowing equal status entitlement to all children born within the Virgin Islands. The Act brings the Territory into compliance with its international obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Minister of Health and Social Development Honourable Ronnie W. Skelton said the act seeks to remove the legal distinction between the status of children born in wedlock and those born outside of wedlock; and its implementation will continue the process of ending discriminatory practices against children.



## 73. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHES FOSTER CARE DRIVE



The Social Development Department announced the foster care drive encouraging individuals to come forward to become foster parents to assist children in need of care and protection. The types of foster care available by the Social Development Department include foster care, kinship care and therapeutic foster care. The programme began in the 1970s and is currently governed by the Children and Young Persons Act, 2005.



# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 74. 25 YEARS OF AGEING STRONG: SENIOR CITIZEN MONTH

The Government of the Virgin Islands continues to show support for its senior citizens and as such, celebrated 25 years of Senior Citizens' Month in May 2014 under the theme, "Silver Seniors: Years of Ageing Strong." Government is also developing a Health Ageing Policy which follows the completed study on Healthy Ageing in 2013. It is also forming a steering committee to recommend policies that will improve the quality of life for seniors.



## 75. TERRITORY'S NEWEST CENTENARIAN IS MRS. VENOVIA TODMAN

The Territory's newest centenarian is Mrs. Venovia Todman who made 100 years old on November 24.

Mrs. Todman was born in 1913 to the late Hugh Benjamin-Hodge and Polly Ann Turnbull. She was born in her grandmother's home in Pleasant Valley which was originally the house and estate of the late Dr. William Thornton, a Virgin Islander from Jost Van Dyke who designed the United States Capitol Building. The mother of three was married to the late Ernest Alfredo Todman and is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist congregation. Premier Smith presented her with a cheque compliments the Government and people of the Virgin Islands, a decade old tradition to honour the Territory's 'golden citizens'.

In paying tribute to her legacy, Honourable Premier said, "Becoming a centenarian is indeed a privilege



and blessing from God, a blessing that many of us would like to experience as we live this life." He said like other centenarians, Mrs. Todman would have seen the world change in many ways, shaped not only by technology, globalisation and migration, but also by tragedy, and the lessons of life.



## 76. SATISFACTORY DRUG UTILISATION REVIEW ON ADINA DONOVAN HOME



A Drug Utilisation Review (DUR) revealed satisfactory findings on residents in the Adina Donovan Home. The review was carried out by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Pharmaceutical Procurement Service.

The findings of the DUR revealed that generally the prescription process was satisfactory but there were some areas that needed improvement.

The prescribing of medicines for the elderly at the nursing home is generally consistent with international prescribing protocols.

## 77. VIRGIN GORDA RE-LAUNCHES HEALTH AND WELLNESS COUNCIL



The re-launch of the Virgin Gorda Health Promotion and Wellness Council in March 2014 is expected to heighten health awareness through increased community participation. The objective is to improve health and prevent non-communicable diseases. The Virgin Gorda Health Promotion and Wellness Council was originally launched in 1995 and is now the fourth council implemented as part of the strategy for the Prevention of Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases.

## 78. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HUMAN AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE-ESTABLISHED

The National Council for Human and Social Development was re-established in March 2014 in an effort to coordinate and monitor the implementation of social protection and human development initiatives in the Territory. The proposed membership represents a cross-section of agencies with the intent to engage in the shaping and implementation of social policy. Sub-committees would also co-opt representatives from other agencies, Non-Profit Organisations and the private sector to support the work of the Council, as the need arises.

# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 79. NEW PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT PASSED

The Public Assistance Act of 1957 was repealed and the 2013 was passed on December 20, 2013 paving the way for the improvement and expansion of the level of services provided to persons in need within the Territory. The Act includes additional provisions such as granting of various types of assistance; establishing an Appeal Board; providing for electronic deposits; stipulating guidelines for governing the grant of assistance; and providing services to the disabled.



## 80. PROTOCOL SIGNING REAFFIRMS GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Government of the Virgin Islands signed the Domestic Violence and Child Protection Protocols on October 1 during Domestic Violence Awareness Month signaling an end to family violence and ushering in a new era for social justice. The protocols, outline comprehensive and multidisciplinary guidelines for the handling of domestic violence and child protection matters across various government agencies.





## 81. END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

'Break the Silence: End Domestic Violence' was the message that resonated during the two-day Domestic Violence Sensitisation Workshop held on June 19 and 20. The Domestic Violence Sensitisation Workshop was hosted by the Social Development Department. The workshop was geared towards informing stakeholders on abuse, the cycle of abuse, its side effects, and the issues surrounding elderly abuse. The Domestic Violence Act, 2011 provides greater protection for victims of domestic violence and makes provisions for the granting of protection orders and for incidental and connected matters.



# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 82. TERRITORY UNITED IN REMEMBRANCE OF 25 VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE

The Territory joined in solidarity to remember the 25 persons who lost their lives to violence in a balloon release tribute that concluded the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on December 10, 2013. Twenty-five balloons were released in remembrance of each victim which spanned from 1999 to 2013. The balloon release took place at the Noel Lloyd Positive Action Movement Park after the March Against Violence led by the Office of Gender Affairs.





## 83. PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE

The Mental Health Act, 2014 was passed on July 22 and aims to provide for a comprehensive legal regime for the provision of mental health services in the Territory, and for related matters. The bill will strengthen the legal framework governing the mental health system in areas such as mental health promotion and prevention; regulation of mental health practice; rehabilitation services; and community based care. It also aims to protect the rights of people with mental disorders while ensuring that they have access to appropriate care.

## 84. NATIONAL DRUGS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS APPOINTED BY CABINET

The Cabinet of the Virgin Islands has sanctioned the appointment of eleven members to the National Drugs Advisory Council (NDAC) for a period of three years, in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs (Prevention of Misuse) Act (Cap 178). The role of the council is to advise the Minister responsible for Health and Social Development on measures to be taken with the social problems arising from the misuse of the said drugs. Additionally, the council will make recommendations for restricting the availability of such drugs or supervising the arrangements for their supply, for enabling persons affected by the misuse of such drugs to obtain advice for securing the provision of proper facilities and services for the treatment,



aftercare of such persons, as well as educating the public, in particular young persons, on the dangers of misusing such drugs. The members appointed are Chairman Mr. McKenzie Baltimore Sr., Ms. Vareen Vanterpool, Ms. Gracia Wheatley, Ms. Chonda Jeffers, Mr. David Morris, Mr. Wade Smith, Mrs. Brenda Fahie, Mr. Orville Clarke, Dr. Harlan Vanterpool, Dr. K. P. Adamson and Mr. Stacy Mather.

## 85. BVI CONTINUES ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE TO COMBAT CHICKUNGUNYA

The Ministry of Health and Social Development is continuing its efforts to ensure that the number of cases of Chickungunya in the Territory remain low. Since the introduction of the disease in the Caribbean, the Ministry of Health and Social Development has increased its surveillance activities in an effort to decrease the mosquito breeding sites throughout the Territory. Also, prompt clean-up operations were carried out on Jost van Dyke where the first cases were reported.

# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 86. SOCIAL SECURITY ACT ALLOWS EQUAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE

The Social Security (Amendment) Act, 2014 was passed on April 8. According to Minister for Health and Social Development Honourable W. Skelton, the amendment provides for the establishment of the National Health Insurance System. Social Security (National Health Insurance) Regulations were approved by the Cabinet earlier in the month.

“The NHI will provide improved access to health services, financial risk protection, and improved health outcomes for all the people of the Virgin Islands. This is our vision, this is our goal; this is our commitment to you,” Minister Skelton said.

## 87. GOVERNMENT PROACTIVELY PLANNING TO MITIGATE EBOLA

The Government of the Virgin Islands has taken a proactive approach and has put in place measures to manage the impact of Ebola, should it affect the Territory. The Ministry of Health and Social Development and the Health and Social Service Committee of the National Disaster Management Council lead the charge on behalf of the Government. As part of Ebola preparatory efforts, quarantine facilities have been identified at Peebles Hospital and containment arrangements have been made at all main ports of entry. The committee has also been in contact with the Pan American Health Organisation regarding the increasing of stocks of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and making these accessible to health workers and line border officers. The BVI Health Services Authority has developed a refresher training programme for all front-line health staff both public and private in the use of PPE, and universal precautions for management of persons with infections.

## 88. PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV CAN ACCESS SUPPORT AND COUNSELING



Persons living with HIV/AIDS can access support and counseling through the BVI New Day Foundation (NDF) formed in January 2014. The BVI NDF is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation and support group, the purpose of which is to empower persons to take ownership of their illness, build capacity and provide mental and emotional support for persons infected and affected with HIV. Services offered by the NDF include spiritual, psychological and peer counseling, holistic health education regarding nutrition, anti-retroviral treatment, spirituality, sexuality and life skills capacity building.



## 89. NEW CASES OF HIV/AIDS LOWEST SINCE 2007

The Ministry of Health and Social development reported that it recorded the lowest cases of new HIV/AIDS infections since 2007. Coordinator of the National HIV/AIDS & Sexual Health Programme Mrs. Noelene Levons-Clarke reported that only three new cases of HIV were recorded in 2014. Mrs. Levons-Clarke noted that the Territory is seeing a reduction in the number of new cases and the spread of HIV infection. This achievement she attributes to enhanced public awareness and education spearheaded by the Ministry of Health and

Social Development. The Coordinator said although persons seem to have a few challenges in being effective with abstinence and faithfulness to one partner, condom use has definitely increased among men and women. She also said that increased access to HIV testing has also enabled the ministry to achieve its target, as many more persons who have tested negative for HIV are more empowered to keep their negative test result.

## 90. VIRGIN GORDA PARTICIPATION BREAKS RECORDS FOR REGIONAL TESTING DAY

The Virgin Gorda community was able to put the 'fun' in Funtastic Friday on June 13. The event attained the highest number of persons to test in a single day in observance of Regional HIV Testing Day. Attendees had their blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol and HIV tests done by the BVI Diabetes Association, BVI Health Services Authority and the National AIDS Programme representatives. Information on nutrition was provided by the Community Health Nutritionist.



## 91. QUARANTINE ACT, 2014 TO PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH

The Quarantine Act, 2014 was passed in July to modernise the law relating to quarantine and to effectively provide public protection from any threats to human health from communicable diseases. The Quarantine Act of the Virgin Islands was initially enacted in 1946 with the intent to work in tandem with previous versions of International Health Regulations (IHR). However, as the IHR became outdated over time and had to be modernised the Virgin Islands Quarantine Act needed to follow suit to remain relevant and effective.

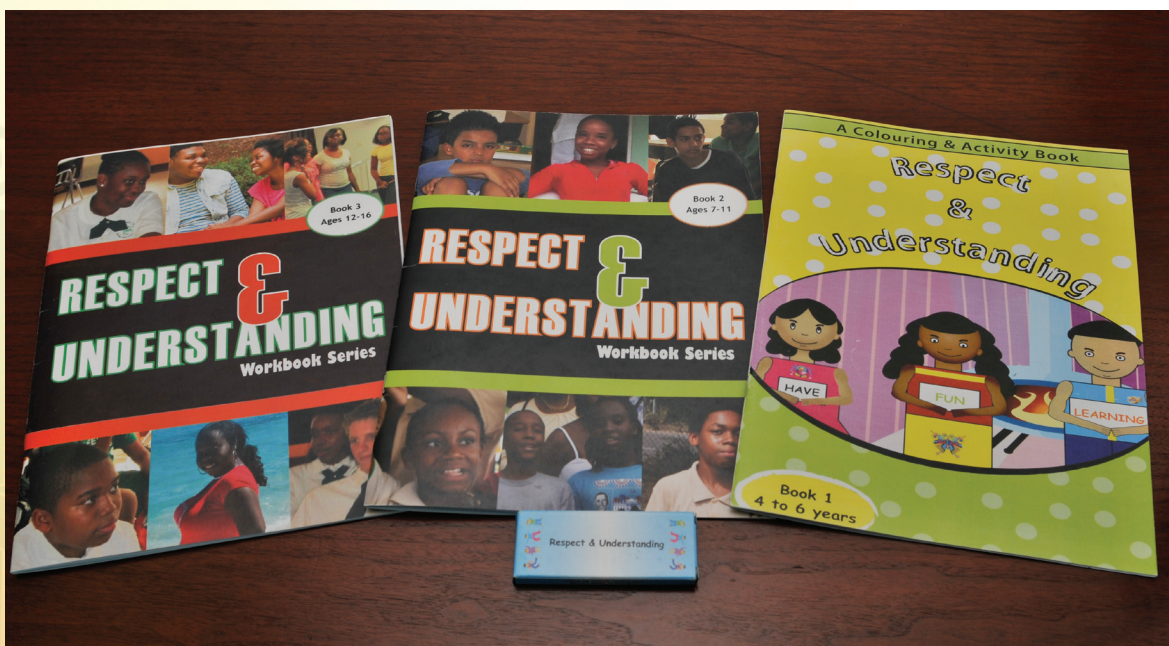
# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 92. SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH WORKBOOKS NOW AVAILABLE

All young people in the Virgin Islands now have access to the Sexual and Reproductive Health workbooks that were locally designed and created by the National AIDS Programme. Book One of the 3-book series is a colouring and activity book that is targeted at children ages 4 to 6 years. Book Two is for pre-teens, ages seven to 11 years, while Book Three is specifically for teenagers, ages 12 to 16 years.

The workbooks were designed based on our observations that students seemed to learn more and were responsive to games and activities instead of brochures when we visited schools. It will also assist youth in the development of life skills and decision making that will lead to healthier, happier and more productive lives.

The workbooks provide enriching activities such as games, discussions and opportunities for youth to express how they feel and think about life changing issues that affect them personally on a daily basis.





## 93. COMMUNITY MOBILISATION- KEY TO BUILDING HEALTHIER VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Ministry of Health and Social Development through an expert innovative community organiser, Mr. Jim Diers of Neighbor Power, facilitated sessions to sensitise members of Government and the public on effective ways of mobilising and building healthy communities.

According to Mr. Diers, community mobilisation is the key to building a healthier Virgin Islands. He said, "Communities can make a difference by promoting healthy eating, creating community hubs, enhancing physical infrastructure, increasing physical activity, enhancing safety, preventing crime, responding to disasters and strengthening democracy."

## 94. WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS OUR WASTE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

Government recognised the need to develop an efficient and effective solid waste management system for the Virgin Islands, and as such worked closely with EGARR & Associates of Trinidad and Tobago to:

- a) Conduct a situational analysis of waste management in the Territory and identify sustainable and affordable options for waste management solutions that are in line with the Territory's development agenda; and
- b) Develop a solid waste management strategy and plan for the improvement of collection, transfer as needed, recycling and disposal of solid waste in the Territory. The strategy also include the analysis of applicable options, costs and timeframes as well as economic, political and social considerations for each viable alternative.

The recommendations from the report are being implemented in a phased approach.



# Improving Social Services & Healthcare

## 95. GARBAGE COLLECTION

Government has begun a pilot programme on the eastern end of Tortola for door-to-door garbage collection.

Collection days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday with a collection time of 7:00 a.m. Feedback indicates that the residents are very pleased with the level of convenience and are ecstatic to be a part of a greener community. Plans are being made to increase the service area.



## 96. WASTE MANAGEMENT ON VIRGIN GORDA AND ANEGADA

A pilot programme for recycling, waste education and community outreach has already begun on Virgin Gorda with strategically placed recycling garbage bins.

Bins have been situated in various locations including The Baths and St. Thomas Bay Jetty. The bins are multi-compartment litterbins that have three separate compartments - one for glass, cans, and other thrash. These bins do not replace the communal bins and are

there to aid in the recycling project. The programme will continue to run indefinitely with the cooperation of residents and possible recyclers. The hope would be to extend this programme over to Tortola in 2015.

The next step is to stop the open burning of garbage on Gorda Peak Virgin Gorda and in the Pond area in Anegada.





## 97. WASTE MANAGEMENT ON JOST VAN DYKE

The Government is committed to eradicating air pollution resulting from the open burning of garbage will come to an end. He announced the construction of the Jost Van Dyke waste transfer station that will facilitate the collection of separated waste and create a controlled environment where waste will be sorted and barged weekly to the Pockwood Pond facility for disposal.

## 98. COMMUNITY URGED TO ADHERE TO INCINERATOR RULES

The Department of Waste Management has asked the community to display a coordinated response when maximising the potential of the incinerator. The new hours of operation are 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. which became effective September 1, 2014.

Waste Officer Marquese Maduro said the hours for public access were tailored to coincide with the peak operating hours to avoid a strain on low staff operating hours. The change allows the department to keep track of the quantity and type of waste materials received for disposal. It also allows for proper sorting of waste received at the plant for recycling, incineration, and landfill.



# Strengthening the Education Sector



The Ministry of Education and Culture continues its journey to **Create a Culture of Excellence in the 21st Century** with a dynamic education system which caters to the needs of active learners and administrators. In most recent years, a number of initiatives have been put in place to advance the system. For 2014, in particular, here is a list of the main improvements to impact the system as found in the Ministry's Education Quality Improvement Strategy. They include:



## 99. TERRITORY OPENS ITS FIRST TECHNICAL SCHOOL - THE VIRGIN ISLANDS SCHOOL OF TECHNICAL STUDIES



The Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies officially opened on Tuesday, October 21, cementing Government's commitment to the advancement of educational opportunities for youth. The new institution is now the fourth secondary public school in the Territory and the Virgin Islands first Technical High School. Each classroom is outfitted with smart boards and other interactive tools that will engage students and create a better teaching and learning environment for both teacher and student. Additionally, each student at the institution received an iPad for the strict purpose of supporting their educational pursuits and for use in classroom lessons.

Minister for Education and Culture Honourable Myron V. Walwyn in his remarks spoke of the skilled labour that the school will produce and the opportunities for the Territory's young people that will lead to their personal and professional success, but also, the success of this Territory. The opening of the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies is one of Government's investments in education, which will allow young people to pursue fundamentally important career choices with a quality education. It will allow its graduates to open businesses and becoming leaders in their right who will in turn become a driving force in the future development of this Territory. The broad programmes being offered at the school are cosmetology, auto-mechanics, culinary arts and construction. In the future an agricultural science programme will be added. The curriculum includes a strong component to teach students, life skills, work skills, customer service skills, and entrepreneurial skills. The students will also have opportunities to become entrepreneurs in the community.

# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 100. PRINCIPALS AND TEACHERS TO BE LICENSED

The Ministry of Education started a licensure programme with principals and senior teachers in both the public and private schools. Thirty plus participants started the process in August 2014 to be fully licensed principals and prospective principals in the education system of the Virgin Islands after completing the eight-month programme. The training was facilitated by the National College for Educational Leadership of Jamaica.



## 101. CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS



Continuous professional development for all teachers has and will continue several times during this school year. In August 2014, technical teachers of the Elmore Stouff High School and teachers of the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies participated in a two-week technical assessment training facilitated by the Human Employment and Resource Training Trust/National Training Agency of Jamaica. This will lead to their certification in the teaching of Technical subjects. Additionally, all teachers participated in a series of professional development sessions as part of the 2014 Summer Institute Sessions. Topics included *Differentiated Instruction*, *Balancing Home & Work as a Busy Professional*, *Stress Management*, *Developing Professional Communities*, *the Teaching of Math, Language and Science* and *Tackling the Constraints and Ethical Issues of Teaching* in addition to training in specialised focus areas.



## 102. REMEDIATION PROGRAMME FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

The Remediation Programme was introduced at the secondary level to help students who are having difficulties in the foundational subjects of Math and English. It is important to note that children learn in different ways and at different paces, therefore, measures had to be put in place to allow students to develop the necessary skills and competencies.



## 103. VIRGIN ISLANDS STUDENTS ACHIEVE TOP PLACES IN REGIONAL CXC CSEC EXAM

Three Virgin Islands students from the Elmore Stoutt High School achieved top places in the region in the 2014 CXC Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examinations (CSEC). The students took advantage of the opportunity provided for all secondary school leavers to sit the CXC Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examinations. Government covered the cost of all associated fees. Instead of permitting only the brightest to sit these regional exams, all students were given the opportunity.

According to Minister for Education and Culture Honourable Myron V. Walwyn, Kerian Arianna Penn and

Christal Nicolette Forbes placed third and seventh respectively in the subject of Theatre Arts, while Makayla Bria Maduro secured the top position in the region for Electrical and Electronic Technology. Ms. Maduro is also the valedictorian of the Elmore Stoutt High School Class of 2014.

Honourable Wawlyn said the diligence of the students, the dedication of teachers and the motivation of the parents have paid off.

It is now required that students pass at least five CXC CSEC subjects, including Math and English to

be eligible for scholarships going forward. Three Virgin Islands students from the Elmore Stoutt High School have achieved top places in the region in the 2014 CXC CSEC.



BVI Government Information Services



# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 104. KEY STAGE TESTING INTRODUCED

While this means that students will be involved in more school-based assessments, it also means that at varying levels throughout the school system, centralised assessment will be done to ensure students are developing as they should. Reports from



these assessments will help principals, teachers, students and parents identify areas of weaknesses and strengths as well as highlight areas where more emphasis must be placed to ensure our students have the requisite skills to move on to the next grade level.

## 105. K-12 MODEL INTRODUCED

The decision was made to change the nomenclature of the system and introduce the K-12 Model, which among other reasons, will require students to spend an additional year in Secondary school to ensure that they are properly prepared for tertiary education and the job market. The additional year will also usher in the offerings of A-Level subjects to our advanced students in the system. These subjects will include entrepreneurship, performing arts, advanced math, the sciences, and others. This will give students more instructional time and prepare them to competently complete the international standard of 13 years of education.

Minister for Education Honourable and Culture Myron Walwyn said, "The additional year will allow students to excel even further and be exposed to CXC Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) examinations." He said in addition to the implementation of the additional year, there is also a change in the nomenclature of our education levels from stages, classes and forms to grades. "As of this school year, we boast a K – 12 education system."

## 106. YOUTH TRAINED IN "THE ART OF FOOD SERVICE"



The Ministry of Education and Culture through its Youth Employment Services (YES) Programme in March launched the first of four workshops geared towards preparing young people for entry level positions in the Virgin Islands workforce.

The workshops titled "*The Art of Food Service*" gave over 20 participants training in the intangible aspects of food service to include the importance of a positive attitude, first impressions and the importance of guests to the Virgin Islands.





## 107. 20 UNEMPLOYED YOUTH TRAINED AT “THE FACE OF THE ORGANISATION WORKSHOP”

The *Face of the Organisation: Becoming an Effective Receptionist* workshop was offered in October, and 20 unemployed youth between the ages of 16 to 30 years received the requisite skills and exposure to secure successful employment as receptionists. It also provided training in the intangible aspects of the office environment, the importance of first impressions and their role in the organization.

Two other workshops were: “*Entrepreneurs: Building Your Own Business*” and “*Introduction to Boating.*”



## 108. JOB FAIR IN VIRGIN GORDA

The Government of the Virgin Islands understands the importance of preparing its youth to face the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

In light of this, the Ministry of Education and Culture hosted its first Job Fair on Virgin Gorda which benefitted in excess of 80 unemployed youth.

Participating business included RoseWood Little Dix Bay, Driftwood Resorts-Nail Bay, Leverick Bay Resort & Marina, Oil Nut Bay, Saba Rock Resort and Necker Island.



# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 109. GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO DIFFERENTLY-ABLED STUDENTS

In keeping with its commitment to provide opportunities for the educational advancement of all students, the Ministry of Education and Culture has provided full scholarships for two special needs students to attend the Vanguard School in Florida.



The recipients of this first-time scholarship opportunity are Kaheem Malone and Shamori Palmer. Both students will receive full scholarships to cover their annual tuition and associated costs up to Grade 12.

In addition to receiving the scholarships, both Malone and Palmer were two of four students who attended the 2014 Vanguard School 'Camp Strive' Summer Programme. The other students were D'Moi Malone and A'Sean Fonseca.

The Vanguard School caters to children ages 10 to around 20 years who have a range of challenges from Dyslexia to mild autism, Attention Deficit/Hyperactive Disorder, Aspergers syndrome, Downs Syndrome and learning disabilities in reading and math among others. It also offers a programme to help students prepare for college. In 2013, the Ministry for the first time created a new budgetary head for Special Needs Programmes and in 2014 allotted \$115,000 for this process.



## 110. PREMIER SMITH FULLY ENGAGED WITH BVI STUDENTS AT BVI HOUSE LONDON

Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE met with over 30 students at BVI House in London on December 7 for a luncheon and orientation programme. Premier Smith provided the students' with an update on the state of the Territory and plans for improving the economy, and its overall development. He also listened to the students' concerns about entrance requirements of future students wishing to attend

UK universities and also transitioning back to BVI after completing their studies. The Premier reassured students that the Government of the Virgin Islands is working hard to create an improved environment for students to return to, and reminded them of the importance of contributing to the advancement of the BVI society. Premier annually engages with BVI students living in the UK during his London visits.



# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 111. NEW FINANCIAL SERVICE TERTIARY BOOK LAUNCHED

The Government of the Virgin Islands took further steps to strengthen the Territory's financial services legacy with the addition of "Offshore Financial Services: A BVI Text" to its growing library of financial services resource materials. The text was formally presented to President of the H. Laverty Stoutt Community College, Dr. Karl Dawson, during a hand-over ceremony on October 9. The text was jointly commissioned by the

BVI Financial Services Commission and HLSCC and was authored by Financial Services Consultant Mr. Paul Byles. It is expected that the book, with its emphasis on the local environment, will further educate Virgin Islanders, particularly at the tertiary level, on the value and importance of the financial services industry to the Virgin Islands and the global economy in which the Territory operates.



## 112. PANEL DISCUSSION IN OBSERVANCE OF 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CXC



The Territory marked the observance of the 40th Anniversary of the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) with a panel discussion on its significance, role and contributions in today's society. The discussion exposed students in the Virgin Islands to the benefits of having a CXC certification, highlighted what CXC offers, the quality of the examinations and its impact on the local landscape. Panelists also shared their experiences with fifth form students and stated how CXC would benefit them. Members of the Class of 1979, the first graduating class to sit the exams, also spoke with students.



## 113. LIBRARY TO CREATE CULTURAL HERITAGE DATABASE WITH DIGITISATION SYSTEM



The Library Services Department has embarked on the creation of a Cultural Heritage Database with the launch of the Digitisation Project during Library Week.

The digitisation system was donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and is comprised of a BookDrive digitiser, four flat screen computer systems, a printer, server, two computer tables and two cameras. The entire package is valued at approximately \$25,000.00. The launch of this digitisation system will improve access to the Library's documents as they conserve and preserve the cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands.



## 114. GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES CULTURAL COMMITTEES

Government launched three committees aimed at providing avenues for Virgin Islanders to learn of their cultural heritage.

The Virgin Islands Genealogical Society allows individuals to trace their ancestry and connect with their families throughout the world.

The Schools' Cultural Committee has as one of its main tasks to coordinate cultural activities throughout the school year.

The Virgin Islands Artist Association will facilitate communication between artists of the Virgin Islands community with local and foreign organisations, agencies and individuals. It will also enable members to pool their resources both material and human for individual and collective benefit.



# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 115. EIGHT RECIPIENTS PRESENTED WITH 2014 EMERGING FELLOW AWARD

In recognition of the newest ambassadors for the Territory, the 2014 recipients of the Virgin Islands Emerging Fellows were Tia-Racquel Modeste, Shane Liburd, Ariq Flax-Charles, Nia Douglas, Kerstin Gordon, Tahj Malone, Sara Smith and Tariq Maduro. The Virgin Islands Emerging Fellow Award is a competitive prize that provides a funding opportunity for youth between the ages of 10 and 20 who show exceptional promise to achieve in academics, the arts and sports.

Ms. Tia-Racquel Modeste, a fourth year student at Bregado Flax Educational Centre, studied art at the Interlochen Arts Academy.

Mr. Shane Liburd, an assistant drama teacher at Elmore Stoutt High School attended the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Mr. Ariq Flax-Charles, a fifth-year student at Bregado Flax Educational Centre, and the Territory's junior chef, undertook a culinary career exploration at Jonson and Wales University in North Miami.

Ms. Nia Douglas, a fourth year student at CEDAR International School interested in pursuing a career in journalism attended Columbia University's Summer Programme for high school students.

Ms. Kerstin Gordon, a fifth-year student at CEDAR International School participated in the Elm City Sports Club Summer Squash Camp at Yale University.

Mr. Tahj Malone who was attending Montverde Academy, Invitational Tournament in Florida for basketball training.



Ms. Sara Smith, a fourth-year student at St. Georges Secondary School studied dance at the University of Los Angeles.

Tariq Maduro, a fifth-year student at Elmore Stoutt High School attended Berkley University's Five Week Summer Performance Programme to study music.



## 116. ALTERNATIVE SECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMME GRADUATES NINE

Nine persons overcame the odds and earned their Secondary Education School Leaving Certificates as part of the Alternative Secondary Education Programme (ASEP) Graduation Exercise for the Class of 2014. Joan E. Adams was the top student. She achieved first place in English Language and Social Studies. She was awarded a laptop from the Ministry of Education and Culture. Ethel Alexander achieved first place in Computer Application and received an iPad. The other graduates were Kesron Agard, Walden Benjamin, Glenville Callwood, Jareem Fahie, Sharma King-Frett, Donald Hanley and Bjorn Smith. Of the nine graduates, six were males. Two other students in the programme were also recognised for their performance. Rochelle Weir achieved first place in Human and Social Biology and Dajshon Benjamin achieved first place in Mathematics. At the graduation ceremony held in December, Minister for Education and Culture, Honourable Myron V. Walwyn congratulated the students, noting that the occasion was a celebration of new beginnings in their lives. He commended the students on their stellar performances and encouraged them to expand their horizons in education and in life.



## 117. OECS OFFICIAL: VIRGIN ISLANDS TECHNICAL SCHOOL CAN BE USED AS A MODEL



The Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies was lauded by Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) officials who said that the institution can be used as a model for the Network of Excellence for Tourism and Hospitality Training

and Education. The officials were in the Territory in November 2014, on a fact finding mission to identify and develop emerging and established niche areas in the member states of the OECS and see how they can fill the gap to develop the requisite human resource skills in those areas.

Team Leader and Human Resource Development Strategic Planning Expert with the OECS Dr. T. Jennifer Edwards said, "I was really impressed with the school. I had to make an adjustment to realise that it was not a university or even a college. It was the high school, because the concept

of what they have there is what we are trying to have in the whole programme. You actually have a model."

Each classroom in the school is outfitted with the latest, up-to-date equipment in every single area and students have modern day access to teaching and can interact and connect with other virtual classrooms. The Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies was officially opened on October 21 2014. The broad programmes being offered this year are cosmetology, auto mechanics and culinary arts.

# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 118. STANDARDISED CURRICULUM TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Beginning the 2014-2015 academic school year, secondary schools across the Virgin Islands will for the first time have a standardised 'standards-based' curriculum.

The announcement was made by Minister of Education and Culture, Honourable Myron V. Walwyn as he addressed educators at the 2014 Professional Day for Educators in August. The aim the minister said is to provide one type of student leaving the secondary school system. He said as it presently stands, different schools are following different

standards and that there must bring uniformity to the system.

The Minister added that a learner centered approach needs to be seen where lessons respond to individual learning needs, taking prominence over the traditional teacher focused instruction.

There will be ongoing reviews as each teacher executes the document in the schools during the 2015 academic year. Use of the curriculum document is not optional, it is mandatory. All teachers are following

the curriculum, and principals will ensure that the curriculum document is used in every grade level and in every subject area. To complement the curriculum, a standardised lesson plans based on the curriculum for individual subjects will be created.



## 119. NEWLY QUALIFIED TEACHER SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Another initiative which came on stream was the Newly Qualified Teacher Support Programme. One of the aims of this programme is to provide support for new teachers, in an effort to ensure they have a pleasant learning experience as they go through their first years of teaching. In February 2014, the seeds for this project were sown when two senior officials from Hertfordshire County, United Kingdom visited the Territory to conduct professional development sessions for education administrators and teachers.

Ms. Liz Shapland, an English adviser and an adviser for Newly Qualified Teachers and Ms. Elizabeth Simpkin, the strategic lead for early years had a four day consultation with education officials to discuss, offer advice, make



recommendations and provide support to officials to implement better structures for newly qualified teachers and early childhood development practitioners.

Ms. Shapland and her team made accompanied visits to a range of schools and early childhood development centres to make observations and gather

information that will assist local officials in providing the appropriate training for newly qualified teachers, setting targets and placing better structures in place to improve the education system through these two avenues.

They will also assist with the development of an Early Years Foundation Statutory Framework and an Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale.



## 120. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT



Elizabeth Simpkin, the strategic lead for Early Years.

Previously, the Ministry of Education and Culture held an Administrative Data Systems Workshop for Education Officers, Principals and Early Childhood Development Practitioners.

This two-day workshop was hosted jointly by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Ministry of Education and Culture.

Dr. Wycliffe Otieno, chief of education for the United Nations Children's Fund Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area and Mr. Marcellus Albertin, head of the Organisation for Eastern States Education Reform Unit facilitated the workshop. Over 40 persons were in attendance.

As part of a visit by Hertfordshire County officials to the Territory in February, Early Childhood Development Practitioners received feature presentations on adult roles in teaching and learning, assessment, planning and providing enabling learning environments. They were facilitated by Ms.

## 121. MULTIPURPOSE STADIUM TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY SPORTS

A ground breaking ceremony took place in July 2014 signaling the start of construction works on the Greenland Multi-Purpose Stadium. The construction of this project is expected to ultimately improve the quality of life for the people of the Virgin Islands, stimulate the economy, and boost the sporting tourism sector.

The scope of works for the project includes a regulation sized football field and associated support facilities to be provided by FIFA. The master plan is also envisioned to include a six-lane, 400 meter grass track; netball and volleyball courts; covering of ghuts on both sides of the stadium and fencing of the



stadium; a parking lot for 200 cars; and an access road between the parking lot and the Multi-purpose stadium, which will be facilitated in partnership with Government and other stakeholders such as the BVI Olympic Committee.

# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 122. ZONALS IMPLEMENTED TO STREAMLINE INTER-PRIMARY SCHOOL SPORTS

This year, zonal competitions were introduced as part of a new format to streamline the Inter-Primary Schools Sports with the hopes of making it more efficient. This change was suggested by the Inter Primary School Sports Organising Committee which was implemented by the Ministry of Education and Culture following a review of last year's competition.

Three zonals were held in a number of races to determine top athletes from participating schools. Leading up to the zonals, each school hosted its respective sports day with a number of schools holding simultaneous events to maximise officials, spectators, and the management of the inter-house championships.

The first two athletes in each event from each school advanced to their respective zonal competition. The top two athletes from each zonal competition advanced to the Inter Primary School Sports Championships.





## 123. VIRGIN ISLANDS CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF FESTIVAL

The Virgin Islands hosted the 60th Anniversary of Festival from July 28– August 9, under the theme, “60 years of Cultural Display and Appreciation. VI festival 2014: Our Diamond Jubilee Celebration.” The festivities highlighted the Territory’s ancestral freedom and cultural history. During this time, a showcase of music, history and culture were staged in grand style with extravaganzas by local and international artists, pageants, food fairs, j’ouverts, parades, gospel and folklore presentations. The slogan was “60 years of Celebrations with Cultural Class. VI Festival 2014 – Let’s Play Mass.”





# Strengthening the Education Sector

## 124. TERRITORY DAY: THE VIRGIN ISLANDS LEGACY

The Ministry of Education and Culture for the second time hosted the annual Territory Day, a day that is important to the political and social advancement of the Virgin Islands.

The chairperson of the Territory Day Committee was Honourable Delores Christopher. Other members of the committee were Brenda Lettsome-Tye, Najan Christopher, Vincent Wheatley, Dr. Allison Archer, Atina Maduro and Colene Penn.

Excerpt from Minister for Education and Culture Honourable Myron V. Walwyn,  
A people's culture remains the means by which generations pass on their heritage, their way of doing things, their morals, values and who they are for future generations. Though some have passed on centuries ago, our ancestors live on today, and not just in our veins. They live in the way we greet one another; they live in the sound of our fungi music, the words of our Territorial song, the rhythm of our dances, the taste of our national dish and even the style of our national dress.

Today, I am here to encourage us and to remind us that our culture is not stagnant, but our culture is living and as we evolve so will our culture. We now live in a world where it is very easy to be influenced by other



cultures. It is as easy as turning on the television, browsing the web or talking to a neighbor. As we evolve however, we must be careful to build on the foundation of our culture and not just take on new cultures as our own. This was the thinking a few years ago when we introduced Virgin Islands History in our secondary schools.

In order to preserve our culture, we must educate our people, beginning with our young people about the history in which they will be charged to keep and the Territory they will be charged with advancing. Over the years the Virgin Islands has been fortunate to have at its helm, political leaders that have watched over the progress of this Territory. They have given present leaders of this country, very large shoes to fill.

If a society abandons its history, it is in danger of losing some of the most important aspects of its culture. If we do not remember that in 1773 the Virgin Islands was a colony in its own right, wrote its own laws and had an established House of Assembly and by 1837 had two coloured men elected to that same House at a time when it was almost unheard of; we would forget that our Territory has a rich heritage of participatory government and democracy.

We need to learn that even when our power was taken from us during the Leeward Islands Federation years, when we were demoted to a presidency, lost the right to make our own laws, and had to travel to Antigua and basically beg for every basic need of the Virgin Islands, that our people did not give up. Our





people never gave up on the dream of reclaiming the pride to once again make decisions for themselves - making their own laws. Our Virgin Islanders showed grit and they held their ground.

The March of 1949 precipitated change which led to a general election in 1950 and the momentum toward quasi self-governance, garnered through the diligence of Virgin Islanders, manifested in 1956 when the Virgin Islands once more became a Colony in its own right. We need to learn that our people never gave up – even when they were down. Knowing our Virgin Islands political history educates us about the future and explains many of our contemporary issues and problems. By learning about the changes in the politics of our Territory, the movement from Colony with some self-rule – to presidency – loss of any self-rule - and back to Colony in our own right shows us that as a people we have the ability to solve our own problems.

Our Virgin Islands history has molded us into the people we are today.





# Protecting Our Borders and Enhancing Law, Order and Public Safety

## **125. EIGHT CERTIFIED AS VI SHIPPING REGISTRY CONTINUES TO BUILD CAPACITY**

Eight officers of the Virgin Islands Shipping Registry are now equipped to certify vessels in accordance with international maritime codes and conventions. The certification follows capacity building in the International Safety Management Code (ISM), International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS) and the ILO Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006, facilitated by the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency. The certification is in keeping with the department's mandate as a Category One Red Ensign Register, and to promote ship registrations as part of the BVI financial services package. The Virgin Islands is a Category 1 Red Ensign Register and it is required to certify ships under all of the conventions, including the upcoming Maritime Labour Convention, the International Safety Management Code and the International Ship and Port Security Code.





## 126. VI SHIPPING REGISTRY STAFF COMPLETES MARITIME LABOUR CONVENTION TRAINING

Surveyors and Inspectors of the Virgin Islands Shipping Registry (VISR) were trained and are now certified to inspect Commercial Yachts and Ships for the issuing of the Maritime Labour Convention 2006.

The officers were provided with knowledge of the MLC 2006 and its certification requirements to determine if a vessel was in conformance with the requirements of the convention.

The training was aimed at providing international standards for the world's first genuinely global industry. Under the MLC 2006 every seafarer has the right to a safe and secure workplace that complies with safety standards. These include: fair terms of employment, decent working and living conditions on board ships, health protection, medical care, welfare measures and other forms of social protection.

The MLC 2006 came into effect on August 20, 2014 in the British Virgin Islands and all commercially operated Virgin Islands ships of 500 gross tonnage or over operating on international voyages are required to carry two specific documents which are the MLC and the Declaration of Maritime Labour Compliance.



# Protecting Our Borders and Enhancing Law, Order and Public Safety

## 127. LAUNCH OF NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING MARKED POLICE WEEK 2014

Police Week 2014 focused on the introduction of Neighbourhood Policing to the Territory with seven dedicated officers tasked to help bring about positive changes in selected communities.

The officers are working under the supervision of the officer in charge of Community Safety, Sergeant Tilda Henry and regularly meet with other senior members of the Force in order to get the needed resources to effect change.

Commissioner of Police David Morris, who led this effort, described these officers as 'potential agents of change' as they forge relationships with residents in order to make a difference especially in the more challenging communities. He said neighbourhood policing has been instituted in constabularies around the world and is effective in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour even in tough neighbourhoods. The Commissioner added that while it is not a quick change, with time the hope is to see the benefits as officers work closely with members of the communities to prevent crime, anti-social behaviour and reduce the fear of crime.

Neighbourhood officers have not been assigned to every area, the expectation is to have the numbers of officers and areas increase over time. The selected communities for the launch are Huntums Ghut/Lower Estate, Road Town, Purcell Estate/Baughers Bay, East End/Long Look, West End, The Valley, Virgin Gorda, and North Sound.





## 128. IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT REACHES OUT TO STUDENTS

Early in 2014, Immigration Officers Randolph Frett and Rosemary Callwood participated in Elmore Stoutt High School's Career Expo. The officers explained the role of the Immigration Department and highlighted the importance of border security for the Territory. Students were briefed about the different units within the Department and encouraged to choose a career in Immigration, and to job train at the Department.



Additionally in May 2014 a team consisting of four staff members from the Immigration Department (Juliette Purcell, Rawlston Williams, Randolph Frett and Suzanne Fonseca) participated in the St. George's Primary School Career Day activities. This is an annual event held by the school where enforcement agencies such as Her Majesty's Customs, The Royal Virgin Islands Police and Immigration Department participate in a two-hour session. The four staff members established a booth on the school's compound where the uniforms for immigration officers and surveillance officers were displayed. The officers also explained the use of forms such as immigration bonds, ED Cards, and applications forms for a Certificate of Residence and Belonger Status. Surveillance equipment including handcuffs, life vests, and cameras were also on display. The staff members interacted with the students and teachers about the services rendered by the department and there was a demonstration depicting a passenger being served by an immigration officer.



## 129. 'FIRE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION'- FOCUS OF FIRE SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK 2014

The Virgin Islands Fire and Rescue Service reiterated its commitment to protecting life and property from the ravages of fire and other natural and manmade hazards in October when it hosted its 18th annual Fire Safety Awareness Week. The week gives fire officers an opportunity to promote the services they provide and to educate the public about safety in the home, school, workplace, and community. Also, the aim was to ensure that the public was educated on strategies for fire prevention and safety and remind people on the importance of having emergency plans in place to mitigate and minimise impacts stemming from manmade or natural disasters.



# Protecting Our Borders and Enhancing Law, Order and Public Safety

## 130. FIRE & POLICE OFFICERS TRAINED IN MAP READING AND LAND NAVIGATION



Twenty police and fire officers are now better able to undertake search and rescue operations following their participation in a Map Reading and Land Navigation course. The course was a joint initiative of the Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Town and Country Planning, Department of Lands and Survey and the BVI Red Cross. It was the first in a series designed to enhance national search and rescue capabilities for both land and sea-based response operations. The newly trained officers will form part of the National Search and Rescue Team, and over time will receive the necessary training to allow them to be fully certified by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group. The advisory group establishes minimum international standards for Urban Search and Rescue teams based on established guidelines endorsed by the United National General Assembly Resolution.



## 131. TEN FIRE OFFICERS INDUCTED IN HISTORIC CEREMONY

This historic occasion, which was held on January 30, marked the induction of ten newly trained fire officers into the service of the Authority. History was also made as the Authority welcomed its first female firefighter to the family.

The new recruits showcased newly acquired skills and performed various firefighting response routines and drills.



Training Coordinator Mr. Kensley Samuel reminded the recruits that firefighting is the best job in the world and to continue to be positive fire officers.

The recruit's response was given by the lone female firefighter, Ms. Erika Creque, who prompted her teammates to remember the valuable lessons, learned along the way, and words of wisdom, as with those words could only become a better version of themselves.

The newest recruit firefighters include; Avinish Suruhbally, Kirk O'Neal, Omari Roberts and Raheem Leonard for the Virgin Gorda Station; Shad Smith of the Anegada Station; and Dominique Sweeney, Okello James, Erika Creque, Cleborne Thomas and J'Maal Alexander for the Beef Island Fire Station.

# Infrastructural Development

## 132. THE BVI CRUISE PIER EXPANSION PROJECT - DONE BY THE BVI FOR THE BVI



The Government of the Virgin Islands continues to forge ahead with the cruise pier expansion project, which will see the strengthening, widening and lengthening of the main cruise ship dock at Wickhams Cay 1. In addition, a 5-acre landside development featuring retail, commercial, entertainment and green spaces, to be named “Tortola Pier Park” will also be created.

The project is being constructed at a cost of approximately 57million dollars and is expected to enhance cruise tourism, accommodate larger classes of ships, cater to increased passenger expectations and enhance economic development. This project of national interest will also create a unique and modern cruise pier facility that delivers a memorable and world-class experience to visitors.

Two contracts were awarded for the construction of the project. The marine work includes lengthening of the pier to 1,312 feet; widening to 60 feet; strengthening to accommodate 180,000 gross registered tonnages; dredging in and around the pier facility and turning basin to allow safer maneuvering of ships. Additionally, work includes removal of existing rip-rap or rock face that currently protects the land and replacing same with a bulkhead for better protection of



landside, and the establishment of a 20-foot boardwalk along the southern coastline which will eventually handle pedestrian traffic.

The landside development entails demolition, piling and placement of concrete slabs.

As of November 30, 13,830 cubic yards of an estimated quantity of 83,234 cubic yards have been dredged and placed into the reclamation berm area. Placement of precast elements for the pier widening, casting of concrete on the pier widening and the driving of the piles for the mooring dolphins are ongoing.

In the area of substructure and demolition works, the piles for building 13 (Retail building) have been completely driven, the slab of building 5 (the Flagship Restaurant) has been poured in its majority, the slab of building 6 (Retail building/public restrooms) has been completed and building 1 (Terminal) is up to the ring beam of the lower level.

One hundred and twenty three piles have been driven as of November 30. The dredging works commenced on November 23 and was a 24 hour operation. This hydraulic dredging is taking place on both sides of the current pier with the aim of lowering the sea bed to 37.5 ft. In December 2014, the 'Issued for Construction' drawings for the pier construction were completed.

Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Mark Vanterpool reiterated his ministry's commitment to push forward with the Cruise Pier project which is expected to bolster the economy of the Virgin Islands.

The Minister is pleased that this important project, which has begun to contribute to the economic development of the Territory, is full steam ahead and he is looking forward to its full completion over the next year. All stakeholders, including taxis, tour operators, vendors and restaurants to prepare for the influx of cruise passengers by way of looking at the services they will provide to help turn day trippers into overnight arrivals.

The Cruise Pier Expansion project is scheduled to be completed by the first half of 2015. From October 2014 to April 30, 2015, a total of 297 cruise ships are expected to call in the Virgin Islands, bringing a total of 612,372 passengers to the Territory. Of that number, 169 calls will be made to Road Town Harbour, totaling 450,000 passengers and 128 calls to the Sister Islands totaling 162,372 passengers.



# Infrastructural Development

## 133. PREMIER SMITH: THE POSSIBILITIES ARE UNLIMITED!

Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. D. Orlando Smith, OBE who also has responsibilities for Tourism, continues to actively encourage tourism stakeholders to take hold of the many opportunities that will become available through the cruise pier expansion project. "I understand that I have to provide opportunities for you to develop and prosper. This is what the cruise pier expansion project is all about. The possibilities are unlimited!" Premier Smith was speaking during the ground breaking ceremony on Thursday, May 8.

He said that the cruise pier expansion project is many things to many people and said, "To our cruise tourism stakeholders in the taxi, tour, vendor and other industries, my Government understands that the tourism industry is your bread and butter. We pledge to secure the future of the Territory's young people through major development initiatives designed to position the BVI as a leading tourism destination."

"My hope is for our young people to prepare themselves for the varying opportunities in tourism. We are laying the foundation today, and encourage you to yield results tomorrow, through your different business ventures in the tourism industry," Premier Smith stated.

Minister of Communications and Works Honourable Mark Vanterpool said, "The Government of the Virgin Islands is steadfastly committed to the economic growth of the Territory and securing the future of its people. During the cruise pier building phases, it is anticipated that the local construction industry will feel the immediate effect. Not only will contractors have an opportunity to work with the expansion of the cruise pier, but also with the construction of buildings and shops for the Tortola Pier Park."

Once completed, the cruise ship pier is expected to accommodate bigger cruise ships and position the BVI among leading tourist destinations.





## 134. PHASE II OF NATIONAL SEWERAGE PROJECT IN ROAD TOWN COMPLETED

The Government of the Virgin Islands made significant progress on the National Sewerage Project. Phase II has been completed through various petty contracts. Approximately 500 feet of pipeline was installed at the roundabout. The sewerage system in this area is currently fully operational.

- On June 17, in order to mitigate waste water traversing the street in Greenland, a temporary sewerage plant was commissioned. The temporary treatment plant is mobile and can be re-located to any community where sewage is a challenge. The operations are monitored and managed by Biosafe Treatment and Septic Solutions, a local company which has been involved in sewerage solutions in the British Virgin Islands for nearly two decades. Approximately 60 residential and commercial properties are currently utilising this facility and the environmental hazards are now rectified.
- National Sewerage Projects works have been completed along Blackburn Highway from Chapel Hill to Parham Town Junction. Water and Sewerage pipes have been ungraded from eight and ten-inch pipes to 18 inch pipes in order to better serve the sewerage needs of the population in the East End

area, 1700 feet of pipeline have been laid.

- W&W Reliable has completed sewerage upgrades in East End from Chapel Hill to Parham Town and Water and Sewerage Department has upgraded the water lines in that area.
- Biwater is expected to begin the delivery of water to the Sabbath Hill storage facility starting from November 1.

Government through the Water and Sewerage Department and various private contractors continue to address the many issues of sewerage in the Territory.





# Infrastructural Development

## 135. PROJECTS TO IMPROVE ROADS CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FUNDING

Government has utilised Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) loan funding to repair and upgrade the Territory's road networks that were damaged by sub-tropical storm Otto in 2010.

Works have been completed in three sites in Ballast Bay. Road rehabilitation and drainage works were also completed in Jost Van Dyke and Cane Garden Bay with a total of seven petty contracts.

Works are ongoing in Palestina and Parham Town. The contract for embankment stabilisation in Thomas Land was signed on October 14. CDB loan rehabilitation works for Lee Road, Fortune Ghut, and Nottingham Estate are out to tender.





## 136. ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECTS



Government continues to upgrade and improve the Territory's infrastructure in keeping with international standards in support of an enhanced community life for every resident and visitor to the Virgin Islands.

Public Works Department has completed road rehabilitation and drainage systems in Sound Road, East End. These works were completed on August 13.





# Infrastructural Development

## 137. BVI GOVERNMENT REMAINS COMMITTED TO SAFEGUARDING ENERGY FUTURE

Caribbean governments were encouraged to urgently work together to come up with a Renewable Energy Policy which will ensure the sustainability of the sector.

Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE in an address at Caribbean Electric Utility Service Corporation (CARILEC) Forum held in September, said that such a policy is needed as it would outline the implications

of energy supply. He stated that if Caribbean Governments can collaborate and design a plan to safeguard the region's energy future, it would accomplish a major task for the Caribbean people. Premier Smith reaffirmed his Government's commitment to safeguarding the Territory's energy future and ensuring energy security. The CARILEC Regulatory Forum was hosted by BVI Electricity Corporation in conjunction with the World Bank

and United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK under the theme "From Grid Lock to Grid Tied."

CARILEC is an association of electric utilities, suppliers, manufactures and other stakeholders operating in the electricity industry in the Caribbean.





## 138. MINISTRY OF WORKS HELPS TERRITORY MOVE TOWARD ECONOMIC GROWTH

As the Government of the Virgin Islands continues to move the Territory towards the path for economic growth, the Ministry of Communications and Works was appropriated \$32,911,000 to build a 'world class' public infrastructure system. Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE announced in his 2013 Budget Address to the Territory that the ministry has developed a rolling three-four year plan addressing capital projects development in key areas including transportation sector, ports and city development, improvement of government buildings, water and sewerage management, sustainable energy initiatives, ferry service initiatives and flood risk mitigation.



# Infrastructural Development

## 139. BIDS FOR SOLAR PROJECT ANNOUNCED



The BVI Electricity Corporation announced in December that four companies have submitted bids to install approximately two megawatts of solar photovoltaic. The companies will produce electricity via solar energy for the next 25 years on various government buildings and statutory bodies in the Territory.

Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Mark Vanterpool in an address at the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) Conference in September 2014 had disclosed that Government, through his ministry and the BVIEC, had developed a policy for the implementation of renewable energy for the the Territory.

“The intention is to produce 30 percent of the Territory’s power supply by the year 2023. Such sources include the use of solar, wind, energy from waste, water heaters, lifestyle changes and recycling,” Minister Vanterpool said adding that Government is considering gradually replacing diesel with liquefied propane, a move which he said will bring economic and environmental benefits.

## 140. CONTRACTORS TRAINED AT WORKSHOP ON TENDERING

Contractors are now more equipped with the knowledge to aid with the successful preparation of tenders and increase their marketability at a special training workshop in November. The Ministry of Finance hosted the workshop titled: “*Understanding the Tendering and Contracting Process*.” The participants reviewed the procurement cycle. They also covered topics including contract administration, legal terms, conditions and requirements, joint-ventures, the elements of a responsive bid and the importance of attending pre-tender meetings. The procedures and guidelines for contracts issued by both the Government and the Caribbean Development Bank were also thoroughly discussed.



## 141. NO MORE TEMPORARY FIXES FOR ROADS

Government in its continued efforts to improve and maintain the Territory's roads to the highest standards, purchased an asphalt distributor trailer, an asphalt paver, a 10-ton roller, a cold milling machine, two skid steer loaders and a 60-ton asphalt mixing plant.

Minister for Communications and Works, Honourable Mark Vanterpool said there was a desperate need for the equipment. He said the asphalt plant Government had before was about 35 years old and incurred exorbitant expenses with regards to high maintenance and repair costs.

Honourable Vanterpool said that Government will no longer fix roads by simply applying asphalt, which is sometimes compromised in a short period by heavy rains or traffic. The objective he said is to resurface the roads properly for the long term.

The pieces of equipment include a milling machine which will be used to remove and reprocess old asphalt on the road turning it into a sub base material. This material will be placed on the road as a base for new asphalt, thus effectively saving Government thousands of dollars.



## 142. PLANNING AUTHORITY GETS NEW DATABASE TO ENHANCE OPERATIONS

The Planning Authority received a new tool designed to enhance the execution of its functions and to be kept abreast of the move by Government to advance its e-Government initiative.

The authority now has a custom-made database which provides an electronic system for the management of building applications. The database developed by local company, Farara Business Solutions, is designed to help the Planning Authority process building applications more efficiently, compile more accurate records, facilitate the easy retrieval of those records and enhance the information sharing capabilities among departments.

# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 143. BVI SIGNS 25TH TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH POLAND

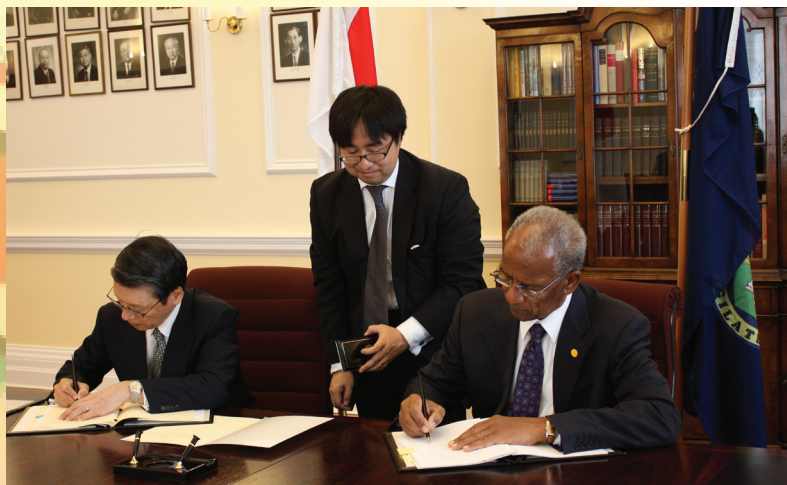
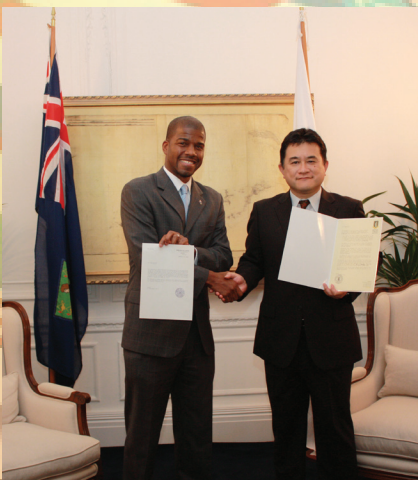
The Government of the Virgin Islands took further steps in strengthening its international relations in November 2013 by signing a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Government of Poland.

The TIEA enables the two tax authorities to have greater ability to exchange information for tax purposes in accordance with internationally agreed standards.

## 144. BVI SIGNS 26TH TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH JAPAN

Deputy Director of the BVI London Office, Mr. Benito Wheatley is pictured with Minister Uno Masao of the Government of Japan, following the Notification Ceremony on September 11. The Notification Ceremony announced that the Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) between the Government of Japan and the Government of the British Virgin Islands could come into effect on October 11, 2014. This means that

both jurisdictions can exchange information in relation to tax matters, once a request for information has been made. On June 18, 2014 the Government of the Virgin Islands further strengthened its international relations by signing a TIEA with the Government of Japan. The TIEA will enable the two tax authorities to have greater ability to exchange information for tax purposes in accordance with internationally agreed standards.





## 145. BVI SIGNS 27TH TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH KOREA

The Government of the Virgin Islands has taken further steps in strengthening its international relations by signing a Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) with the Government of South Korea.

The TIEA will enable the two tax authorities to have greater ability to exchange information for tax purposes in accordance with internationally agreed standards.

Premier and Minister of Finance of the British Virgin Islands (BVI) Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, signed the agreement with His Excellency Sungnam Lim, who signed

on behalf of South Korea. The event took place on Friday December 5 at BVI House in London.

Commenting on the signing of the BVI's 27th TIEA, Premier Smith said, "The agreement signed with South Korea clearly demonstrates how the BVI continues to work with governments around the world in setting the very highest standards of regulation and transparency. The commercial opportunity presented by the economic growth in Asia is significant, and this TIEA provides a basis that will further strengthen the relationship between South Korea

and the British Virgin Islands."

The Premier noted that with the 27th TIEA now signed, it demonstrates the jurisdiction's role as a world-class centre for the highest standards in financial regulation and cross-border tax issues. In April 2002, the British Virgin Islands committed to work with the OECD to develop principles of transparency and exchange of information in tax matters.

Inclusive of this recently signed agreement, the BVI has signed 27 TIEAs to date with Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Curacao, St Maarten and Aruba, the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, France and the Nordic Alliance of Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Iceland, The Faroes and Greenland and China, India, Germany, Poland, Portugal, the Czech Republic, the States of Guernsey, Canada, Japan and now South Korea.



# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 146. PREMIER SMITH HOSTS JOINT PRESS BRIEFING WITH NEW OVERSEAS TERRITORY MINISTER

Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE is pictured here with the new Minister for the Overseas Territories (OT), Mr. James Duddridge, MP and His Excellency the Governor Mr. John S. Duncan OBE during a joint press briefing held on October 8. The joint press briefing was part of Minister Duddridge's first official visit to the British Virgin Islands and an OT since taking office in August. It was held to discuss a range of topics including financial services, tourism and the close links between the United Kingdom and the British Virgin Islands. During his visit, Minister Duddridge MP also toured the new Peebles Hospital, the cruise pier expansion project and met with tourism industry leaders on Virgin Gorda.





## 147. PREMIER SMITH CONCLUDES JOINT MINISTERIAL COUNCIL IN LONDON



Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE concluded a week of talks with Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom in December, where he joined other Overseas Territories (OTs) Leaders at the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC).

The meetings covered a wide range of topics that included economic development, financial services, security, policing, passports, health, and pensions. The Premier co-chaired a plenary session on the environment with Lord de Mauley, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), where he made a statement on behalf of the OTs on the economic value of the environment. The Joint Ministerial Council meetings concluded with the issuance of a joint communique which, among other things, sets out the collective commitments agreed by the UK and the OTs.

The Joint Ministerial Council was launched in October 2012 following the publication of the June 2012 White Paper: The Overseas Territories: Security, Success and Sustainability. The annual meeting brings together UK Ministers and OT Leaders to discuss UK-OT relations.

# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 148. BVI JOINS MULTILATERAL CONVENTION

At the annual meeting of the Global Forum in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance on Tax and Administrative Matters was extended to the Virgin Islands after the United Kingdom Government deposited a declaration to the OECD on November 21, 2013.

The treaty's extension follows the Government of the Virgin Islands' commitment to join the convention in the lead up to the G8 Summit in Lough Erne, Northern Ireland.

## 149. BVI AND UK GOVERNMENT FOSTER MODERN PARTNERSHIP

In their continued efforts to foster a modern partnership with the United Kingdom (UK), Premier Dr. Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE and other Overseas Territories (OTs) Heads of Government, met in the Cayman Islands in July 2014 for a preparatory meeting and discussed the way forward for the Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) scheduled for December 2014. The areas for discussion were economic diversification, global standards of financial regulation accountability and transparency, good governance, environmental stability, and security and immigration. The JMC meeting provides an opportunity for the UK and the OTs to work together on a wide range of issues and to agree priorities and plans for implementation.





## 150. PREMIER SMITH SPEAKS ON BEHALF OF TERRITORIES COMPLETES TALKS WITH EUROPEAN UNION

Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE formally launched his chairmanship of the Overseas Countries and Territories Association (OCTA) from April 1 to 2 with an official visit to Brussels. On the official visit he met European Union (EU) officials and stakeholders, and discussed partnerships and programmes for the benefit of the 26 Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) associated with the EU.

The Premier held talks at the European Commission with Deputy Director General of the Directorate General for Development and Cooperation - Europe Aid (DG DEVCO), Mr. Marcus Cornaro, with whom he discussed plans for the 13th OCT-EU Forum that will be held in the BVI. They also discussed cooperation on environmental issues and EU support for conserving the biodiversity of the OCTs, as well as opportunities for partnerships in the

wider Caribbean and Pacific regions in the areas of trade and economic development.

The OCTA Chairmanship reflects Government's objective of strengthening the international relations of the Territory through the establishment of strategic partnerships with international partners that help to advance the interests of the BVI abroad.

## 151. PREMIER TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH ASIA PACIFIC REGION



In ongoing efforts to strengthen the Territory's economic and financial services relations with the Asia Pacific region, Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE engaged with business leaders, government officials, financial services practitioners and clients during a visit to Hong Kong and greater China in September 2014. The visit coincided with the first anniversary of the opening of BVI House Asia in Hong Kong and the 30th anniversary of the International Business Companies (IBC) Act, the innovative piece of legislation which has positioned the Virgin Islands as a leading global financial services jurisdiction.



# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 152. TERRITORY HOSTS REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MEETING

The Government of the Virgin Islands hosted the Inaugural Meeting of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability from September 30 to October 1, 2014. Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE said he was pleased that the Virgin Islands had been chosen to host another regional meeting.

“Hosting these types of regional events allows us to showcase and market the Territory as a prime venue for business conferences and fora.”

Premier Smith said that as host, the BVI is better positioned to strengthen its relationships with its Caribbean counterparts as collaboration is done on regional issues such as climate change and environmental sustainability.





## 153. GUADELOUPE SEEKS VALUABLE ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP WITH BVI

The Regional Council of Guadeloupe has expressed interest in collaborating with the Government of the Virgin Islands in sharing best practices and technical expertise to address shared environmental matters while proposing actions and solutions. Several areas were outlined for collaboration during meetings held in the Virgin Islands in September including biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the management of national marine reserves and protected area systems and the use and deployment of alternative energy technologies to increase resilience and reduce fossil fuel use.



## 154. DEPUTY PREMIER REPRESENTS BVI AT SMALL ISLAND STATES TOURISM CONFERENCE

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Dr. the Honourable Kedrick Pickering attended the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference in the Bahamas in February 2014. Dr. Pickering participated in discussions on practical actions to maximise the local benefits of tourism, and climate change and environmental challenges for SIDS across the world.

One of the objectives of the meeting was to provide a forum where presenters and participants can have frank discussions to identify and offer practical solutions to those issues that are impediments to local communities' ability to maximise the benefits of tourism.

# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 155. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND YOUTH ON THE AGENDA FOR UK-CARIBBEAN MINISTERIAL FORUM

Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE led a three-member delegation the 8th UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum in London from June 16 to 18. They joined several Ministers from the UK and the Caribbean, as well as officials from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to discuss various issues including economic development and youth at the annual forum. Plenary sessions covered energy security and opportunities to work together for further development of renewable energy in the region and economic development. Sessions also focused on areas of greater collaboration to ensure that young people in the Caribbean have the necessary education and skills to work and support growth in the region.

## 156. PREMIER TO CARIBBEAN COUNCIL: 'WE MUST WORK AS ONE'

Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE during the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council (COCTC) in Montserrat encouraged members to strengthen the level of cooperation in the region, and unite to resolve common challenges.

The Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories Council was established in April 2012 as a framework for discussions aimed at strengthening Regional Cooperation, enhancing international cooperation, addressing issues of mutual interest and concern, as well as sharing resources and overcoming common challenges among Caribbean Overseas Territories.

In addressing the gathering on May 16, Premier Smith urged the Council to jointly assess political, economic and social situations and reflect on the needs as they relate to relevant programming priorities. He further rallied the leaders to work together as a region.

Other topics discussed at the meeting focused on cooperation in the areas of food security, capacity building, waste management, health, tourism, renewable energy, transitioning away from fossils fuels, blending facilities to promote investment, and access to fisheries.

The COCTC meeting allowed counterparts to discuss the regional programming for the 11th European Development Fund (EDF). In attendance were officials from the Caribbean British and Dutch Overseas Territories of Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands, Saint Maarten, Curacao, Montserrat, and the British Virgin Islands.





## 157. BVI-USVI IN CANDID TALKS ON LAWS GOVERNING MUSICAL EXCHANGE



The Government of the Virgin Islands and the Government of the United States Virgin Islands began candid discussions to clarify laws governing the musical exchange between both territories. The Greater Virgin Islands discussed the requirements for Virgin Islands' bands travelling to the United States Virgin Islands to perform at various functions and events.

The meeting followed the recent Inter-Virgin Islands Council Meeting held on May 8. During the meeting the BVI delegation made a presentation titled: *'Virgin Islands Musicians access to perform in the United States Virgin Islands'*. This is the first time both sides have met to discuss the matter.

## 158. BVI-USVI FRIENDSHIP DAY CELEBRATES COMMON TERRITORIAL TIES

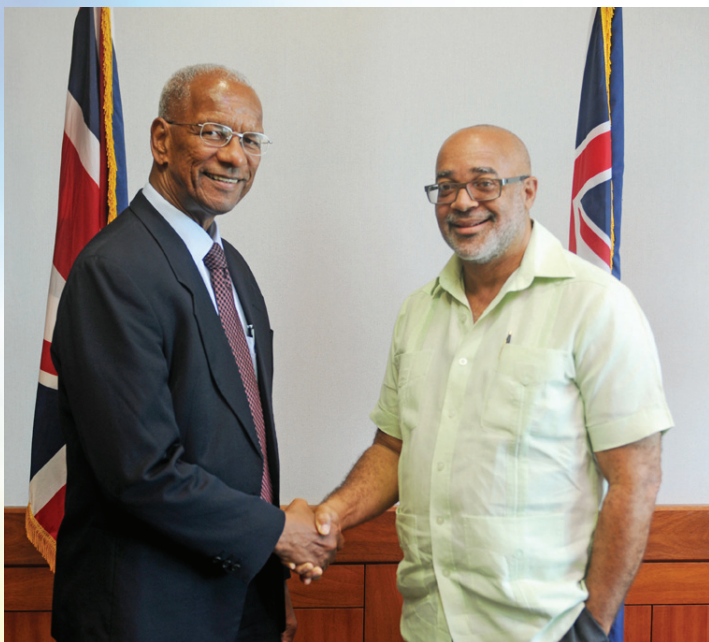


people. The observance was designed to strengthen and build upon that bond of friendship, highlighting the commonalities, the shared history and the shared culture of Virgin Islanders.

The Greater Virgin Islands geared up for this year's BVI-USVI Friendship Day celebrations under the theme, *"Ole Tyme Tings" ~ Celebrating the Ties that Bind Us*". The event hosted by St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands (USVI) from October 17-18, sought to further strengthen the cultural and political relationship between the two territories. Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, stated, "Each year the Virgin Islands looks forward to this annual event which celebrates our common strengths and unique ties." BVI-USVI Friendship Day has been celebrated since 1972 as an opportunity for our Governments and the entire Virgin Islands community to appreciate and reflect on the close ties which bind the neighbouring Territories and its

# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 159. OECS DIRECTOR GENERAL PAYS COURTESY VISIT TO PREMIER SMITH



Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE received a courtesy visit from the Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Dr. Didacus Jules September 30.

The visit coincided with the Inaugural Meeting of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability held from September 30 to October 1. The Virgin Islands hosted the meeting which was sponsored by the OECS. It brought together technical persons and several ministers with environmental sustainability portfolios to address key issues including: Climate Change, the development of sustainable land management policies, energy issues and technical cooperation and coordination amongst OECS member states.

## 160. WORLD WAR 1 VETERAN JAMES RYMER HONOURED AT PREMIER'S RECEPTION



British Virgin Islands World War 1 Veteran James Rymer's outstanding service in World War 1 was recently celebrated at the annual Premier's reception hosted by Premier and Minister of Finance, Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE. The reception was held in London and the occasion marked the centenary of the 'Great War'. Premier Smith and His Excellency the Governor Mr. John S. Duncan, OBE paid tribute to James Rymer, by honouring his family who were on hand for the occasion. Mr. Rymer in 1919 received the Mercantile Marine Ribbon, Mercantile Marine Medal and British Medal for his service to Britain as a seaman during World War 1. His grandson James Rymer, who is coincidentally named after his grandfather, thanked the Premier and Governor on behalf of the Rymer family. He said, "It means so much to us to have my grandfather's service recognised. We are proud of our BVI roots." The Premier's Reception is held annually during the Premier's official visit to London for talks with the United Kingdom Government.



## 161. VIRGIN ISLANDERS NAMED IN THE QUEEN'S NEW YEAR HONOURS



The 2015 New Year Honours List was announced in December 2014 and Deputy Governor Mrs V. Inez Archibald was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire- CBE, while Mrs Annie Gardner was awarded an MBE- Member of the Order of the British Empire. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II made the appointments as part of her New Year Honours List. The Queen's New Year Honours List recognises individuals for outstanding achievement and service across the United Kingdom and the Overseas Territories. His Excellency the Governor Mr John S. Duncan, OBE congratulated both recipients on their well-deserved awards and for their long standing dedication to public service and contribution to the community. The CBE is the Commander of the Order of the British Empire. It is awarded for having a prominent role at national level or a leading role at regional level. It can also be awarded for a distinguished, innovative contribution to any area. The MBE is the Member of the Order of the British Empire. It is awarded for a significant achievement or outstanding service to the community. An MBE is also awarded for local 'hands-on' service which stands out as an example to other people.



# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 162. THREE RECEIVE BVI BADGE OF HONOUR

Three persons received the BVI Badge of Honour for their outstanding contribution to the development of the Virgin Islands in December 2014. His Excellency the Governor, John S. Duncan, OBE after consultation with the Premier, Dr. the Hon D. Orlando Smith, OBE and the Leader of the Opposition, Hon R. T. O' Neal, OBE accepted the recommendation of the BVI Honours Committee that Mrs. Marlene Penn-Trotman, Mr. Clarence Cecil Thomas and Mr. Reynell V. Frazer be awarded at an Investiture Ceremony to be held in their

honour at Government House on December 9. The Badge of Honour is presented to a Virgin Islander, or a person who has been an ordinary resident in the British Virgin Islands for not less than 10 years prior to the date of the award, and who has provided entrepreneurial goods and or services within the Territory for over 20 years; or served as an outstanding public servant with a notable degree of integrity and a high standard of service. The BVI Badge of Honour award is also presented to persons who may have

performed a life threatening act of bravery; given notable humanitarian service to others in the community for a significant number of years; given meritorious voluntary service in Non-Governmental Organisations, or exceptional business or professional service to the community; and has been instrumental in bringing about significant changes within the public service. Additionally, the recipient must be a respectable, law abiding citizen and will not be barred to recommendation based on the possession of other honours.





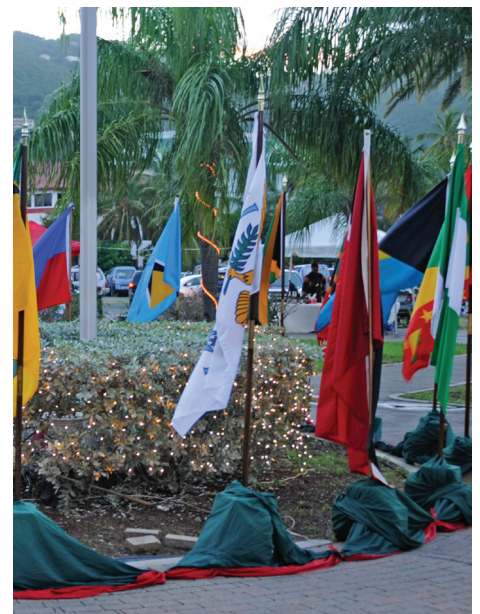
## 163. PREMIER'S CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD: A DELIGHTFUL CELEBRATION

The message of unity echoed throughout the Virgin Islands on the evening of Saturday, December 21, 2013 as Virgin Islanders and natives of different countries residing in the Territory came out in numbers to perform and enjoy "Christmas around the world: A Celebration in the BVI" with Premier of the Virgin Islands Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE.

The evening of cultural expression which was held at the Central Administration Building was the brainchild of Mr. Elmo Connor and was posted to Premier's Facebook page by Ms. Noni Georges, following Premier's call for the community to suggest how he should celebrate Christmas with them.

In addressing the gathering during the event, Premier Smith thanked both Ms. Georges and Mr. Connor for submitting the idea and ensuring that it embraced his vision for unity among all the residents and citizens of the Virgin Islands.

Premier said he was pleased to see everyone come together to celebrate the cultural evening and said, "Where there is unity, there is strength.... Tonight has given us an opportunity to share our Christmas customs and traditions with each other."



# LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES



## FROM NOVEMBER 2013

### THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIONS WERE PASSED:

#### No. 12 of 2013 - Financial Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2013

This Act amends the Financial Investigation Agency Act, 2003. It provides for certain general amendments to the principal Act including replacing references to "Legislative Council" and "Executive Council" with the words "House of Assembly" and "Cabinet". It also amends section 3(2) of the principal Act to provide for the Attorney General to be the Deputy Chairman of the board and the Director to be an ex officio member of the Board.

#### No. 13 of 2013 - Arbitration Act, 2013

This Act repeals and replaces the current Arbitration Act which was enacted on 6th September, 1976 and has never been amended or revised since its enactment. The Act is limited in its scope and is viewed more as a legal framework for the conduct of domestic arbitration.

#### No. 14 of 2013 - Public Assistance Act, 2013

This Act repeals the Public Assistance Ordinance (Cap 265) which has been in existence for over fifty years and modernizes the Territory's public assistance programme.

## FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2014

### THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATIONS WERE PASSED:

#### No. 1 of 2014 - Appropriation Act, 2014

This Act provides for the appropriation of monies towards the defraying of charges and expenses for the services of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the period commencing 1st January through December, 2014.

#### No. 2 of 2014 - Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2014

This Act essentially is consequential upon the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act, 2014. It speaks to the same matters currently dealt with under the Criminal Code. Therefore, in order to remove the potential conflict between the two pieces of legislation, the Criminal Code is amended to revoke provisions dealing with matters that are the subject matter of the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime.

#### No. 3 of 2014 - Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act, 2014 - replaced by No. 9 of 2014

This Act essentially makes provision for matters relating to securing computer material, prohibiting the misuse of computers and data comprised in computers, and prohibiting the unauthorised access, modification and any other form of interference with computers and computer data.

#### No. 4 of 2014 - Interpretation (Amendment) Act, 2014

The Act would, in amending the Act, firstly seek to largely simplify the language whilst leaving the substance of the amended provisions the same as in the Act. Secondly, this Act would seek to update the Act by introducing new provisions.

#### No. 5 of 2014 - Law Revision Act, 2014

The Act seeks to authorise a revision of the laws of the Territory and will contain all the laws in force in the Territory from 1st May, 1990 to the revision date which is 31st December, 2012.

#### No. 6 of 2014 - Status of Children Act, 2014

This Act seeks to make provisions for the equal status of children throughout the Territory and for connected matters. It addresses the status of children, deals with parentage, make provisions for disposition of property and for miscellaneous matters.

#### No. 7 of 2014 - Social Security (Amendment) Act, 2014

The purpose of this Act is to introduce a National Health Insurance System for persons who are legally residents in the Territory. Through the introduction of this Act, all eligible persons shall have equal access to quality health care at a cost that is not prohibitive.

#### No. 8 of 2014 - Education (Amendment) Act, 2014

The Act seeks to update certain terms so that the Act reflects the new terms used in the 2007 Constitution, such as "Cabinet" and "House of Assembly". In addition, the Act seeks to update other terms used in the Act such as "Director of Health Services" with the words "Chief Medical Officer" and "School Attendance Officer" with the words "Truancy Officer" and "Board of Management" with the words "School Management Committee".

#### No. 9 of 2014 - Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Act, 2014

(see No. 3 of 2014 above)

#### No. 10 of 2014 - Quarantine Act, 2014

A legislation incorporating new ideas on the subject, in particular, to modernise the law relating to quarantine so that it may properly provide for the protection of the public from quarantinable diseases, as well as the prevention of the spread of quarantinable diseases by means of any vessel or aircraft arriving or leaving a port in the Territory.

#### No. 11 of 2014 - Mental Health Act, 2014

This was enacted in 1985 and since that time, significant advances have been made in the field of psychiatry related to the treatment of patients and the practice of mental health. There now are new approaches which substantially improve the quality of life of patients, their families and the community as a whole. There are ten basic principles of Mental Health Care Law which have been included in the Act.









