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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British Virgin Islands Ports Authority Nurtures Local Talent through Internship Programme

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, 15th September 2023 – The British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (BVIPA) is pleased to announce the commencement of its Internship Program, a critical initiative aimed at providing students in the Territory with valuable real-world experience while preparing them for their future careers. Under the guidance of Mrs. Patricia Blaize-Adams, the HR Manager at the BVI Ports Authority, this programme signifies the organisation’s commitment to developing local expertise in various fields.

Internship programs hold immense significance, both for aspiring students and organizations like the BVIPA. Such programmes serve as a bridge between classroom learning and the professional world. By offering hands-on experience, students gain a practical understanding of their chosen field, allowing them to apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. This experiential learning not only enhances their skill set but also helps them make informed career choices.

For the BVI Ports Authority, the Internship Program is an invaluable resource. It enables us to identify and nurture local talent, ensuring a future workforce that is well-prepared and aligned with our organization's needs. Furthermore, it allows us to contribute to the growth and development of our community by offering students an opportunity to gain meaningful work experience, setting the stage for their future success.

The Internship Program offers comprehensive opportunities for students to gain practical knowledge and skills. Key programme details include:

- Eligibility: Students must be pursuing studies in a field relevant to their chosen placement area.
- Internship Period: The internship period is scheduled from June 1st to August 31st, allowing participants to engage in full-time work and immerse themselves in their chosen field.
- Participating Disciplines: The Internship Program encompasses a range of disciplines, including marine, marketing/public relations, operations/logistics, compliance, finance, and human resources.
- Application Process: Interested students can express their interest in participating by contacting their respective schools or applying directly to the HR department at the BVIPA.

Mrs. Patricia Blaize-Adams, HR Manager at the BVI Ports Authority, emphasised the significance of the program, stating, "We are pleased to introduce this Internship Programme as part of our ongoing commitment to fostering local talent. By providing students with hands-on experience in their chosen fields, we aim to equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their future careers."

Mr. Ja'Quinn Thomas, a student at the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC), reached out to the BVI Ports Authority during the Authority's participation at the 2023 HLSCC Career Fair. His proactive approach and enthusiasm for learning were immediately apparent, making him an ideal candidate for the Internship Program. Mr. Thomas, who held the position of IT Technician I, was the first participant in this enriching journey, which spanned a duration of three months, from June to August 2023.

The internship program was designed to provide young talents like Mr. Thomas with invaluable exposure to the working environment, allowing them to acquire new skills, enhance existing ones, and gain hands-on experience. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Thomas exhibited enthusiasm and dedication, embracing the opportunity to learn and grow in the field of information technology.

Reflecting on his transformative experience, Mr. Thomas stated, "This internship was highly informative. I gained so many new skills and experience. I improved upon my existing skills. I am now much better suited to the working world than I was before I started. This is the first job I have had that took the time to help me evolve, and that I did. I would absolutely not mind returning full time, and most of that is thanks to my teammates. This experience has set in stone and cleared any doubts that I do want a career in IT."

The BVI Ports Authority is committed to continuing this internship programme, fostering the growth of local talent, and strengthening its connection with the community. This initiative aligns with the organisation's mission to not only excel in maritime services but also to invest in the development of the Territory's youth.

For inquiries or further information about the BVI Ports Authority and its internship program, please contact: BVIPA Human Resources 494-3435



NOTE TO EDITOR(S):
(Photo Credits: BVIPA)

ABOUT THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS PORTS AUTHORITY

The BVI Ports Authority is the managing authority for all official Sea Ports within the British Virgin Islands inclusive of the 60ft wide, 1,312 ft. long cruise pier that can berth ships up to a maximum tonnage of 180,000 GRT. The BVIPA is responsible for the welcoming and safe arrival of seafaring passengers, as well as the reception, handling and security of cargo and sea-based trade.

For more information, please visit www.bviports.org