



# YOUR GOVERNMENT AT WORK

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

November 2011 - November 2013



We are setting our compass on a course of prosperity for all and Building a Better Virgin Islands

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



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# 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' what my Government was able to accomplish in its first two years in office.

We continue to be driven by our mission: Putting you the people of these Virgin Islands first!

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

1. Stimulate/Fix the Economy
2. Improve the Standard of Living
3. Improve Overall Social Services Programmes and Healthcare
4. Strengthen the Educational Sector
5. Protect our Borders and Enhance Law, Order and Public Safety
6. Public Sector Reformation, Communications and Infrastructure
7. Re-establish/Strengthen Regional and International Relations

I invite you to read for yourself on 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. Re-establishment of the Small Business Bureau



In 2012, the National Business Bureau was re-established to make the BVI the best place to start and grow a business.

In keeping with Government's commitment to the development of the small business sector, the Government of the Virgin Islands signed an initial agreement in August 2013, with the National Bank of the Virgin Islands to provide loans for local entrepreneurs through a loan programme. The programme will foster a more conducive environment for the development of local entrepreneurialism among Virgin Islanders. Additionally, the programme will, wherever and to the maximum extent possible, include financial literacy and related educational activities, practical training initiatives, technical assistance, and networking as well as marketing opportunities.

Government is currently speaking with other commercial banks and other entities to provide a strong credit environment.



SIGNING OF SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAMME

## 2. Review of the existing process for trade license applications.



In 2012, the Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs conducted a review and implemented new practices which have reduced and streamlined existing processes and procedures for obtaining a trade license, thereby allowing for further business development in the Territory.

## 3. Review existing customs tariff regime



In order to lower the cost of goods to stimulate the economy and to keep more money in the pockets of residents, in March 2012 Government announced an amendment to the Customs Management and Duties Act, explaining that all merchants were required to bear duty based on the purchase cost of the goods, less any insurance and freight costs. Government continues to monitor the effectiveness of this Act.

Government is also undertaking further reviews at the tariff regime with a view of stimulating the economy and lowering the cost of goods.

## 4. Strengthen the Financial Services Sector to enhance and solidify the BVI's reputation as a preeminent jurisdiction.

In ensuring Government's commitment to reinvigorate the BVI's financial services industry through public-private collaboration, the Government of the Virgin Islands:

Instituted the Financial Services Business Development Committee (FSBDC) to among other things advise on strategic development of the Financial Services Industry.

Under the direction of the FSBDC conducted a public consultation in January 2012 with industry stakeholders to assess the state of the industry and provide input on its strategic development.

Commissioned a Financial Services Task Force in February 2012 comprising industry practitioners and government personnel to review those recommendations from the public consultation, make further and detailed recommendations and advise on implementation of agreed recommendations.

Conducted a strategic retreat in February 2013 to examine the BVI Financial Services Model to advise on its viability, and make appropriate recommendations to adapt the model.

Proposed to Cabinet an action plan to adapt, develop and educate as a means to evolving our current model to ensure the long term sustainability of our financial services industry.

Undertook a comprehensive review and amendments to the Business Companies Act.

Engaged the UK and other global and transnational organisations on



key areas of relevance for financial services including money laundering, information exchange, tax transparency, and beneficial ownership.

In May 2013, Premier sets the record straight regarding some misperceptions about the financial services industry and the role the BVI plays in the global economy during his meetings with key policy makers, politicians and business leaders in London.

As of the July 9, 2012 the International Tax Authority (ITA) has been designated to perform the functions of the Authority under section 4(1) of the Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) Act, 2003. The ITA is responsible for all practical aspect of Tax Information Exchange Agreement requests and has also been charged with the responsibility of negotiating TIEA agreements with potential treaty partners to ensure that the Virgin Islands is fully compliant with the standards of transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes. The ITA is also charged with the responsibility of developing the framework within the Virgin Islands for the effective exchange of information.

In September, 2013 UK Prime Minister David Cameron said it is no longer fair to refer to the BVI, and its peers as "tax havens".

In October, 2013 Minister for Overseas Territories Mark Simmons endorsed the strength of the BVI's independent regulator - Financial Services Commission.

## 5. Review the building permit approval process.



In reducing the time it takes to get building approval, the Town and Country Planning Department has taken a number of steps to improve the process, including conducting and maintaining a schedule of monthly inter-agency meetings to review applications before they are sent to the Planning Authority.

Additionally, the Planning Authority has delegated certain approval powers to the Chief Planner. These include the ability to approve development plans consisting of up to 5 dwelling units, and subdivisions of up to 5 lots.

These initiatives have led to reduced processing time and more approvals for building applications.

## 6. Introduce a two-step Budget Process



In an effort to ensure that Government is being more accountable in the management of its financial resources, Government has introduced a two-step budget process where programmes and projects are presented by midyear for approval. This process allows for the linking of budgets to the strategic plan to ensure budget submissions are appropriately costed and in line with Government's overall strategic plan.

# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 7. Restart the affordable (social) housing programme.



A new Public Assistance Act has been approved by Cabinet to repeal the public assistance ordinance (CAP 265) which has been in existence for over 50 years to modernise the Territory's public assistance programme.

Government has completed a one bedroom home in Long Look for an indigent male.

Government is also exploring proposals for longer scale social housing programmes.

## 8. Create a strategic tourism policy.



BVI Tourist Board created a policy and made the decision that effective 2012 its annual promotional calendar will run September 1st to August 31. The Board has embarked on an aggressive marketing strategy to reposition and increase the destination share of voice in our primary markets. The strategy focuses Territory's strengths in the areas of:

1. Land based tourism - resorts, villas, small properties;
2. Water based and nautical tourism - sailing and diving;

3. Growing the super and mega yacht sector - yacht registration and increased visitations.
4. Expanding the destination's calendar of annual events designed to drive visitors to the destination, and
5. Developing the Territory as a location for the lucrative destination wedding and honeymoon market.



STAKEHOLDERS MEETING



BUILDING A BETTER VIRGIN ISLANDS

## 9. Market the Territory as the preferred destination



*BVI Tourist Board established a dedicated unit and staff with a mandate to increase the destination's share of this market. This unit will also work in tandem with the National Business Bureau to expose service providers and entrepreneurs to the many services and standards this sector will demand.*

### ACCESS BY SEA

Government of the Virgin Islands remains committed to the expansion of the cruise pier to ensure the Territory benefits from the latest trend of the cruise ship industry globally.

The BVITB is working with The US Virgin Islands Port Authority to enhance our visitor's arrival experience by adding a greeter service thereby creating a more seamless transfer through the airport and ferry terminals in St. Thomas. This service is expected to be realised by December 2013.

Government will also continue to work with the Ferry operators to try and realise an improved and optimised service. Government expects to support them in this regard; as well as to have mutually agreeable changes that would improve the service for the 2014 Tourism season.

### ACCESS BY AIR

Government remains committed to the expansion of the airport to improve access to the Territory.

BVI Tourist Board and the Premier's Office have engaged a strategy which focuses on getting visitors to the BVI via San Juan, Puerto Rico and the Cyril E. King International Airport in St. Thomas and for our European visitors, the VC Bird International Airport in Antigua. The Board via its Air Lift Committee will continue with discussions at the highest levels with all of the principal carriers serving or proposing to serve the Territory for the upcoming winter season and beyond.

Cape Air will for the first time add service between San Juan and Virgin Gorda, as well as service between St. Thomas and Tortola.

Seaplane services will also be available winter 2013 between St. Thomas and North Sound, Virgin Gorda.

Seaborne continues to increase its presence at both Virgin Gorda and Tortola.

Government will continue to work with Seaborne's Executive level management team to review customer service and operational glitches and to develop an action plan for correction for the winter ahead.



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 9. Market the Territory as the preferred destination

(continued)

Seaborne will shortly announce additional partnership agreements with other major carriers who provide service from the US Mainland into San Juan.

VI Airlink now provides scheduled services between San Juan, St Thomas, Tortola and Anegada and has now an on line booking feature which allows for ease of reservations. Government is currently negotiating with a local carrier to provide non-stop service between Antigua and Tortola and hope to have this facilitated and in operation by December 2013.

### EUROPEAN MARKET

Launch of BVLIVE campaign in the UK in 2012.

A campaign launched to deliver a slice of island life to London's streets through video, a pop-up bar and a brand new app.

Government worked with Black Tomato's expert team to deliver six videos of these island masters at work, showcasing the BVI's breadth and depth of experiences whilst bringing a touch of sunshine to London's Autumnal days.

Government launched pop-up Bar, Shoreditch, in Box Park, housed a BVI master mixologist, offering a sneak peak of the relaxed atmosphere and beach bar ambience that the BVI promises.

The mobile app, BVI IT, launched to bring the sunshine, beach lifestyle and BVI mentality straight to the audience's smart phone and includes photo filters. The app allows users to view information on BVI including island and beach maps as well as special events.

### EMERGING MARKET: SOUTH AMERICA

In order to increase annual stay-over arrivals by 10 percent and to reduce the country's dependency on a few source markets, the BVI Tourist Board has identified South America as a new target market with specific focus on the stronger markets of Brazil and Argentina.

Government retained the services of a Marketing & Public Relations Agency – JG Black Book to represent the BVI in that market.

BVI was further introduced to the Brazilian market through a week of activities in Sao Paulo and Rio.

Activities included sales calls to major travel agents and tour operators; a media luncheon with approximately 25 media houses; a round table discussion with owners of eight major tour operators and a partnership with the organisers of Travel Week and a reception for over 100 industry professionals in Rio.

### NORTH AMERICAN MARKET

BVI Tourist Board takes a more integrated approach to its marketing, implementing activities targeted at both consumer and trade communities.

### FOR THE CONSUMER

Placement advertising in major consumer travel and tourism publications (Robb Report, Conde Nast Traveler, Travel & Leisure, the New York Times - T Magazine, Brides, Budget Travel, Showboats, Sports Diver and Multihull) to highlight the destination's diverse product.

Summer and fall campaigns launched under the themes "Chill at 85 degrees" and "Just For You" respectively. Both supported by strong print and digital advertising in the US market.

Launch of a summer Staycation programme locally, inviting residents to sample the BVI product and especially the Jewels of the BVI.

In partnership with Simon Malls, a major retail establishment in the US, Government launched a retail promotion “Girls Night Out” which ran in 77 malls in 46 key BVI markets. The campaign included on-site brand exposure, social media promotions and a trip give-away to the BVI.

A special advertising programme launched to promote the “Jewels of the BVI”. This included a sweepstakes promotion with Budget Travel magazine that ran in September and October 2013 as well as a digital advertising campaign including custom ad units and brand channel pieces on several websites until December.

Government is currently negotiating with a major travel agency to provide representation and increased bookability for our Jewel properties which form a core of the BVI guest experience. The majority of these properties are owned by BVI Islanders and Belongers.

#### FOR TRADE RELATIONS

The Territory hosted five (5) travel agent familiarisation trips from key markets in the USA. These agents have the opportunity to experience the richness of the BVI’s product so that they can better sell their destination.

Government works with several of the major US Tour Operators who

sell the BVI properties in a co-op marketing programme in an effort to increase exposure and increase their production to the destination.

#### SMALL PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

BVI Tourist Board implements initiatives directed at assisting small properties with increasing their market share. These include:

1. The assignment of a dedicated member of the Board’s staff to assist these properties and manage the various programmes organised by the Board for these small properties.
2. The development of a booking engine through US based Jack Rabbit, assisting small properties with enhancing their online marketing and expanding their business. This booking engine enables prospective visitors to book hotel accommodations directly with all properties who sign up.
3. The Board has conducted an information session directed at assisting these properties on how to effectively access the Hotel Aid Ordinance to upgrade their plant.
4. In the area of marketing, the Board is working to develop a dedicated marketing programme for these properties and to develop relationships with specific tour operators in the United States and United Kingdom.
5. One of the critical initiatives that the Ministry and the Board are working on, is to identify a source of funding to help the small properties to upgrade and enhance their physical plant on a regular basis. This is a matter that is being explored with the National Bank of the Virgin Islands.



# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

**10. Seek to present the BVI as a venue for the hosting of conferences, seminars and training.**



In raising the profile of the Virgin Islands amongst global professionals, the Territory was chosen the destination of choice to host the following events:

Islands of the World XII Conference May 29 –June 1, 2012

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) conference for law enforcement agencies on July 18, 2012

Political and Business Leaders meeting of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative May 17-18, 2013

Rotary District 7020 Conference from May 14-18, 2013

Red Ensign Conference on May 14, 2013

The BVI Financial Services Commission (FSC) in collaboration with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force Compliance Conference from October 23-24, 2013

Overseas Territories Communications Workshop on November 4-5, 2013

These seminars, conferences and trainings have resulted in significant economic impact through spending by hundreds of visitors in key areas of the economy.



MAY 2013 - CCI CONFERENCE

# 11. Establish Guidelines for Financial Accountability



In an effort to signal the Government of the Virgin Islands commitment to the management of the Territory's fiscal resources in a more transparent and efficient manner, Government (VI) developed and subsequently signed the Protocols for Effective Management with Her Majesty's Government. The protocols, as designed by the Government of the Virgin Islands, calls for accountability, transparency and information-based decision-making. It includes five important principles:

- Fiscal and economic planning
- Transparency

- Decision making based on quantitative data analysis
- Value for money
- Proactive Risk Management

Government revised the Financial Management Act and revisited the policies of the Treasury Department to ensure internal processes and procedures promote transparent and accountable financial practices.

The Ministry of Finance has been conducting a series of training with Government's statutory boards, ministries and departments to ensure

there is a clear understanding of the Protocols for Effective Financial Management.

Ministries are now required to produce strategic plans to ensure effective financial planning.

In strengthening the financial structures across Government, all ministries now have Finance and Planning Officers who assist with budgeting and effective financial management.

# 12. Support the resurgence of fishing industry in the Territory.



In seeking ways to grow the economy and create jobs in the fishing sector of our economy, Government:

Enhanced the storage capacity at the BVI Fishing Complex

Purchased vacuum seal machines as well as refurbished the existing ice machines to ensure the display remain fresh.

The general working environment of the fishing complex was improved with the installation of Air-conditioned units to improve the air quality and special non-skid material applied to the floor to create a safer workplace.

The processing practices to increase the marketability, shelf-life and value

of the products offered by the Fishing Complex were also enhanced.

Processor training is ongoing to increase ability and proficiency to market a wider array of product offerings.

Provisions have been made to ensure that fishermen are paid immediately after they land their catch. This has been one of the major hindrances to the development of the sector.

On March 1, 2013 Government held its first National Fishermen Conference where fishermen and key inter-agency members revisited the strengths and weaknesses of the sector.



BVI FISHING COMPLEX RELAUNCH



FISHERFOLK CONFERENCE

# Stimulating & Fixing the Economy

## 13. Create a job placement commission

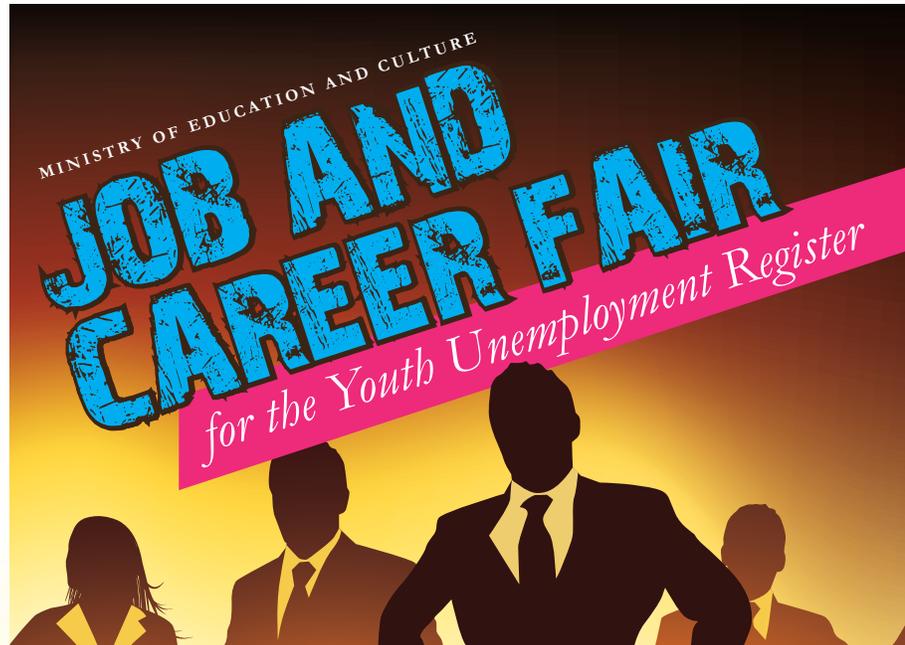


There is currently, close collaboration between two agencies of the Government: the Employment Service Unit (Labour Department) and the Youth Unemployment Registry (Ministry of Education and Culture). They are working together to place unemployed youth within the Territory in appropriate jobs.

Government now has in place Youth Employment Services to further assist with job placement.

Government successfully recruited youth for H Lavity Stoutt Community College and Ministry of Education and Culture's Apprenticeship Programme, a 10-month initiative in which students are able to learn a skill and be attached to various work places to gain experience.

Government restructured and re-launched the Employment Services Unit to assist with timely and proper placement of Virgin Islanders, as well as non-Virgin Islanders. This Unit continues to build its capacity with the support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour.



JOB FAIR

## 14. Establish mechanisms for regular and constant contact with the public.



In January 2012, Financial Services stakeholders meeting launched by the International Finance Centre to ascertain the challenges and opportunities for strengthening the industry.

In January 2012, hospitality industry stakeholders meeting launched by the BVI Tourist Board to ascertain the challenges and opportunities for strengthening the industry.

On February 25, 2013, Government "On The Road" was launched to give residents of the Virgin Islands an opportunity to meet face-to-face with Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE and his ministers. So far, interactive community meetings were held in:

- Carrot Bay
- Virgin Gorda
- Sea Cows Bay
- Cane Garden Bay

In November 2013, BVI Tourist Board will host Marketplace to give the industry an opportunity to meet with the Tourist Board staff and agencies stationed locally and internationally to discuss ways to strengthen the partnership and take advantage of the efforts of the board in its source markets. Marketplace features educational seminars and a panel discussion designed to further educate our industry partners on tourism trends and suggested best practices.

In 2013, BVI House Asia in Hong Kong launches 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.

In keeping its commitment to openness and transparency, Government has held public numerous meetings in several areas and on several projects including Agriculture and Fishing, airport development, cruise ship development, small business development, road and infrastructural development, Virgin Gorda mini hospital, Gun Creek development, National Health Insurance, to name a few.



'ON THE ROAD' INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY MEETING



GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

# Improving the Standard of Living

## 15. Utilise solar technology for street lights.

 ONGOING

Solar Street Light Installation is an ongoing programme where solar street lights have been installed in select areas of Tortola. So far, solar street lights were installed in Road Town - next to the Sunny Caribbean Parking Lot in 2012; and in 2013 along Admin Drive and on Manse Road.



## 16. Every household to install energy efficient light bulbs.

 ONGOING

A pilot programme spearheaded by the BVI Electricity Corporation for energy efficient light bulbs in homes commenced in 2013. So far, two homes of senior citizens have been outfitted with the lights. A number of other senior homes will be outfitted in the coming months.



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY OPTION FOR BVI EXPLORED IN SPAIN

## 17. Create the institutional framework to support improved “customer service” across all industries within the BVI as a national priority.



In 2013, the BVI Tourist Board launched ‘We are One BVI’ a Territory-wide customer service and product knowledge campaign aimed at improving our customers’ experience. Training was extended to port ambassadors, taxi drivers, ferry operators, Customs and Immigration staff, as well as airline personnel.

On February 25, 2013, the Water and Sewerage Department launched its new customer service division, customer care and water conservation campaign theme: “Service our Customer with Priority.” The customer service division was officially launched on March 12, 2013.



WATER AND SEWERAGE  
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

## 18. Ensure the maintenance of the public areas, beautification, waste management.



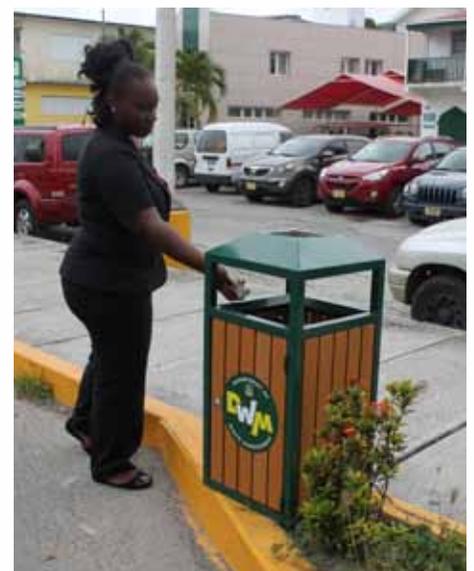
The Ministry of Health and Social Development finalised the comprehensive Waste Management Strategy in July 2013. Several significant actions have been put in place and partnerships were formed for the implementation. These include:

The ‘pilot’ house-to-house Garbage Collection Service which started in August 2013.

The replacement of its current fleet of litterbins in Road Town with new, compact and more environmentally friendly litterbins.

The placement of 30 recycling bins to reduce litter on Virgin Gorda. The multicoloured triple compartment recycling bins are clearly marked and are designed to collect glass, cans and other waste.

Government introduced an island-wide ‘Keep it Clean’ campaign to encourage communities to assist with cleaning up the Virgin Islands. Clean-up included bush cutting, removal of derelict vehicles from the main public roads, the cleaning of coastlines, mangroves, Brandywine Bay Beach, Beef Island Beach and Trelis Bay among others.



ROAD TOWN  
NEW LITTER BINS

# Improving Overall Social Services Programmes & Healthcare



HAND OVER OF KEYS TO HOSPITAL

## 19. Complete the new hospital.

 ONGOING

In October, 2013 the Ministry of Health and Social Development announced that the construction phase of the New Peebles Hospital from James Todman Construction Ltd. and James Todman Jr., Construction Ltd was completed, on time and within budget. This construction phase was comprised of the internal works such as the mechanical, electrical and plumbing works, internal and external doors, the floor finishing, wall finishing, paving of the parking lot and outdoor lighting.

When fully outfitted, the seven-floor facility will have 120 beds.

The facility will house a biomedical and facilities management service, information technology, pharmacy, reception and registration areas,

accident and emergency, radiology, a medical/surgical ward, psychiatric ward, paediatric ward, three state-of-the-art operating theaters, procedure rooms, recovery rooms, endoscopy, a critical care unit, neonatal unit, obstetrics and labour rooms, delivery and postpartum recovery rooms, Central Sterile Supply Department, a chapel, administrative areas, and a physiotherapy unit with a state of the art hydrotherapy pool, catering and dining area and gift shop and space for future expansion.

The next phases include the transition and move to the New Peebles Hospital and the purchasing of equipment.



## 20. Build a modern, efficient emergency health care system that is responsive and cost efficient.

### ONGOING

In February 2013, BVI Health Services Authority initiated the new health information cards system. Under the phrase, 'One patient, One record' the card acts as an access key for patients' medical records. Patients can expect to receive text and email reminders about appointments. Additionally, patients will have the luxury of viewing their health records and

booking appointments online, all with the assurance of confidentiality.

On March 15, 2013 a launch ceremony was held to commemorate the partnership agreement between the British Virgin Islands Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) and HIMA Health, which stemmed from the arrangements made from January 2012.

The purpose of the partnership was to provide specialist medical services in the treatment of cancers (oncology), the treatment of kidney diseases (nephrology), and the treatment of diseases of the nervous system (neurosurgery) to name a few.



LAUNCH OF HIMA AGREEMENT



HIMA HEALTH

## 21. Begin the first phase of development of the new Iris O'Neal Clinic hospital on Virgin Gorda.

### ONGOING

After several meetings with the people of Virgin Gorda, the construction design drawings of the Iris O'Neal Medical Centre are now complete. The tender documents are currently being prepared. Construction is expected to commence soon after the tender process has been completed.



IRIS O'NEAL CLINIC

# Improving Overall Social Services Programmes & Healthcare

## 22. Complete the development of National Health Insurance.

 ONGOING

National Health Insurance (NHI) is a health insurance plan that provides coverage for legal residents of the Territory, against the cost of a defined benefits package of health services including health promotion, prevention and treatment in times of illness or injury. All persons are required to contribute to the plan.

It is based on two fundamental principles:

- (i) payments are shared based on ability to pay, without worrying about health risks such as age, occupation or pre-existing health conditions; and
- (ii) healthcare benefits are equally available to everyone.



NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

## 23. Recognising the needs and potential of the differently-abled population.

 ONGOING

The Government, in recognising those who are differently-abled as possessing potential, remains committed to providing them with the highest standards of specialised education, health care and social services. In ongoing efforts to assist them with achieving personal independence, reach their fullest potential and enjoy a decent standard of living, the Government:

In April 2012, signed an agreement with Maria Holder Memorial Trust and Kingwood Trust for the establishment of an Autism programme to provide services to persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder. These services were designed to develop their cognitive, social and life skills.

In October 2012, the Autism Centre was officially opened. Eight children and six adults started receiving intervention at the centre while assess-



OPENING OF THE AUTISM CENTRE

## 24. Establish Community Health care for the mentally-ill persons.



ment and diagnosis were ongoing for a number of other referred persons. In May 2013, two professionals were certified to diagnose Autism Spectrum Disorder, thus eliminating the need for persons to travel overseas for a diagnosis.

In June 2013, twelve professionals from both public and private educational institutions and the Autism Centre were certified in different approaches to assessment and intervention for persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Government allocated special funding to support the health needs of disabilities and have recently assisted a patient with a cochlea implant.

A Mental Health Policy was laid before the House of Assembly in October, 2013. The Ministry of Health and Social Development is currently finalising a new Mental Health Bill. The implementation of the Mental Health Policy will act as a guide to strengthen mental health services in the Territory. It will also ensure that the social, economic and physical environments are supportive to enable overall health and wellbeing.

## 25. Improve the methods/ efficiency of educating the public on chronic and acute health conditions.



The Ministry has implemented a ten-year strategy titled, "Toward a Healthier Virgin islands". This strategy is geared towards the prevention of chronic Non-communicable Diseases utilising a population health approach which mobilises society and Government. Meetings are held by the various committees and councils to implement an action plan for the strategy.

A committee has been set up in each community and there are a number of educational and physical, dietary, lifestyle programmes ongoing in communities to promote healthier living.



HIV/AIDS TESTING WORKSHOP

# Improving Overall Social Services Programmes & Healthcare

## 26. Train more doctors, nurses and allied health professionals for roles in health services

 ONGOING

Since 2012, 12 persons were awarded scholarships in the following medical fields: dentistry, paramedics, nursing, radiography and medicine.

## 27. Promotion of gender equality

 ONGOING

In order ensure that men and women in the Virgin Islands are accorded full and equal rights and opportunities, Government through the Office of Gender Affairs, has initiated a number of programmes. Some include:

The enactment of the Domestic Violence Act, 2011 in October 2012;

The National Gender Policy was laid in the House of Assembly in July, 2013.

The Partnership for Peace, a domestic violence intervention programme, is now in its eighth cycle. The After - Support Programme was launched in 2013.

A Domestic Violence Protocol has been finalised. The protocol outlines a coordinated and integrated response system to the growing domestic violence problem in Territory.

## 28. Develop functional and well-equipped sporting facilities in all communities.

 ONGOING

Improvements to the Jeffrey Caines Basketball Arena, Virgin Gorda  
Rehabilitation and reopening of Belle Vue Gym and community centre  
Installation of lights on the Old Recreational Grounds Softball Field  
Completion of Phase I of the Greenland Recreational facility  
Funding support to start baseball leagues on Sister Islands  
Development of park in the Valley, Virgin Gorda  
Refurbishing of the basketball court on Anegada



BELLE VUE GYM

## 29. Bring the complement of the police force up to the appropriate level.

 ONGOING

Nine newly trained officers of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) recently returned from Barbados with top honours in their training class.

## 30. Continue multi-prong prevention, treatment and education strategy focused on HIV/AIDS.

 ONGOING

The National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS was developed and costed for the Territory.

In 2010, the National AIDS Programme set a goal to train 40 health care workers in the clinical management of HIV. To date, a total of 65 health care workers have been trained.

The Clinical Guidelines on HIV/AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases were updated according to World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.



HIV COURSE

# Strengthening the Educational Sector

## 31. Implement a practice-oriented and student-centered education improvement master plan.

 ONGOING

The Ministry of Education and Culture has adopted the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Education Sector Strategy as its plan to strengthen the educational sector of the Virgin Islands. The goal of the strategy is highlighted by the theme 'Every Learner Succeeds'. This then has led into a policy of Inclusive Education and several other changes to bring the education sector in line with international best practice.



KEY STAGE TESTING COMMUNITY MEETING

## 32. Commission the education reform initiative, provide clear guidelines and benchmark progress.

 ONGOING

In creating a Culture of Excellence and in reforming the education system of the Virgin Islands, the Ministry of Education and Culture has forged ahead with implementing Key Stage Testing and the removal of the Primary Five Examinations; a Territorial Examination Board; raising of the grading scheme; mandatory sitting of Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) exams, creation of a fourth public secondary school and the professional development for teachers.



CXC REGISTRAR MEETS WITH PRINCIPALS AND EDUCATION OFFICERS

### 33. Refine the Ministry of Education & Culture's organisational structure and operational systems.

#### ONGOING

In order to effectively meet the education demands of the 21st century, the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Department of Education have commenced work to merge both entities into one seamless unit to build the Territory's educational product.



EDUCATION SYSTEM TO BENEFIT FROM VI-HERTFORDSHIRE AGREEMENT

### 34. Complete the development of a National Standards and Life-Based Curriculum.

#### ONGOING

The Department of Education has completed the Social Studies and Science curricula for Primary Schools to have four national standards-based curricula across all Primary Schools. This is important to ensure seamless integration and that standards are intertwined with active teaching and learning activities. Work continues to finalise the Language Arts and mathematics for Secondary Schools.

Committee formulated to develop a National Youth Policy to provide a systematic approach, point-of-reference and ensure the participation of youth in the decision-making process, policy formulation and political, social and economic aspects of the development of the Virgin Islands; and provide youth with leadership opportunities that will encourage personal growth.

In an effort to improve the physical infrastructure of schools in the Territory, Government made an investment on repairs in schools throughout the Territory. These include:

- Repairs to the roof at Enid Scatliffe Pre-Primary
- Repairs to the electrical system at Althea Scatliffe Primary
- Repairs to bathroom facilities at Bregado Flax Educational Centre
- Built a bus stand at Althea Scatliffe Primary
- Built new classrooms at Jost Van Dyke School
- Built new classrooms for Kindergarten classes at Anegada School
- Completed the playground at Robinson O'Neal
- Installed air-conditioning systems at Ebenezer Primary

# Strengthening the Educational Sector

## 35. Develop trade and technical programmes for students

 ONGOING

To ensure a highly advanced total child development plan and programme, Government took a decision to make the BVI Technical and Vocational Institute the fourth public secondary school in the Territory, with specific emphasis on technical and vocational education.

Renovations to the newly acquired existing structure at Baugher's Bay have begun and formal instruction at the school is anticipated by September 2014.

Students upon completion at this institution will receive an equivalent Secondary School Leaving Certificate as the other Secondary Schools and are expected to write CXC examinations in their academic subjects and City and Guilds in their technical subjects.

Presently, the Ministry of Education and Culture is in collaboration with H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, to finalise a Memorandum of Understanding so that the technical school can become a satellite centre for City and Guilds under the auspices of the College.



TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

## 36. Develop recognition and reward projects for students and educators.

### ONGOING

From the partnership between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Hertfordshire County in the United Kingdom, The Ministry of Education and Culture has deepened ties to form a principal exchange programme aimed at improving school management in the Virgin Islands.

In May 2013, two assistant principals benefitted from a two week attachment in Hertfordshire County.

On March 16, 2013, an appreciation gala dinner and awards ceremony was held at the Multipurpose Sports Complex to honour teachers of the Territory. It was attended by almost 600 educators. Prizes were awarded for top schools, teachers and principals in the Territory.

On June 12, an appreciation gala dinner was held for students and teachers of the Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre as they celebrated 40 years of service to the community.

In June 2013, Six talented Virgin Islands received Emerging Fellow Awards to fulfill their true potential in the areas of sports, academics, or arts.

## 37. Provide differently-abled persons with the highest standards of specialised education.

### ONGOING

In an effort to assist persons with achieving personal independence, reach their fullest potential and enjoy a decent standard of living, Government:

Allocated more funding for Student Services to aid with the development of students.

Donated iPads and computers to students

Provided scholarship and support graduates

Offered training for a cohort of teachers from each school as Government move towards inclusive education.

Hosted of regular meetings and contacts for parents and guardians of differently-abled children.

Provided financial support for caregivers of differently-abled children to help them support the needs of their child.

# Strengthening the Educational Sector

## 38. Create a national programme for all school leavers.

 ONGOING

The Territory's national programme is being re-organised under the re-defining of the School leaving profile of secondary school leavers.

The National Citizen Service programme started in fourth and fifth forms. It is a two-year programme where students are expected to cover 120 hours of community service as part of their graduation requirement rather than making it after they leave school.

Government initiated further plans to review and revise the Alternative Secondary Education Programme to help students earn their high school certification.

On June 28, 2013, Government announced that CXC would soon become mandatory for all school leavers.



BVI RELAY TEAM



BVI CARIFTA TEAM

## 39. Work steadfastly to preserve, enhance and promote Virgin Islands cultural identity.



In promoting cultural pride and identity, on February 1, 2012 Government launched the Territorial Dress and Territorial song competition. The committee responsible for narrowing the submissions received 24 submissions for the song competition, while nine submissions were received for the dress competition. On June 10, 2013, three finalists were chosen in the different categories and showcased their work during a public presentation at the Eileene L. Parsons auditorium titled: "Defining Ourselves: A Virgin Islands Story in Dress and Song". On July 30, 2012, House of Assembly members voted on the winning song and dress.

On July 1, 2013 the Territory celebrated its first inaugural Territory Day at the Noel Lloyd Positive Action Movement Park, which highlighted the significance of the Virgin Islands' development as a Territory. The Territorial Signs and Symbols were unveiled:

Territorial Dress designed by Ms Kristin Frazer and Mrs Florence Phillips

Territorial Song – Oh Beautiful Virgin Islands – written by Ayana Hull and Mr. Kareem-Nelson Hull.

Territorial Tree – White Cedar (once used to make the famous Virgin Islands sloops)

Territorial Flower – White Cedar Flower

Territorial Bird – The Turtle Dove

# Strengthening the Educational Sector

## 39. Work steadfastly to preserve, enhance and promote Virgin Islands cultural identity. (continued)

Territorial Dish – Fungi and Fish (represents the fishing culture of our forefathers)

Territorial Music – Fungi Music (represents a cook up of sounds that is bedded in the musical style of African slaves)

Territorial Gift – Miniature version of a traditional Virgin Islands sloop (a boat that is synonymous with the Virgin Islands and is also represented on our Territorial Dress).

Territorial colours will be:

Yellow (representing the rising sun)

Green (representing our verdant hills)

Blue (reflecting our beautiful Caribbean Sea)

White (reflecting our beautiful beaches)

Red (representing the feisty nature of the Virgin Islands people)

On February 10, 2012, Government launched the Virgin Islands Festival of Art to showcase the Territory's culture, music, arts and artists.

In September 2012, Flag (Union Jack and Territorial Flag) hoisting ceremonies and the singing of the Territorial Song were instituted across schools and the establishment of protocols for use of flags and other formal etiquette policies surrounding their official department were established to strengthen the Virgin Islander's identity.

Government continues to work diligently with preserving culture through the improvement of the festival and the effectiveness of Festival & Fairs Committee and festival so that it highlights the celebrations as memoirs of our culture. Some initiatives include:

The appointment of the 60th Anniversary Advisory Committee for Festival. Committee held its first meeting on September 12, 2013.



TERRITORIAL SLOOP



TERRITORIAL BIRD

## 40. Commence work towards the establishment of key cultural institutions.

 ONGOING

Plans drawn for the Library, performing arts centre and national museum during the 2003 – 2007 term are currently being reviewed.

In 2012, the Library Services launched the Virgin Islands Library Catalogue (VI LIBCAT) during Library Week under the theme: “Linking you to a World of Information.”

In June 2012, the Library and Resource Centre at Elmore Stoutt High School were modernised and fully outfitted with 20 computers.

## 41. Preserve, restore and promote the importance of historical sites.

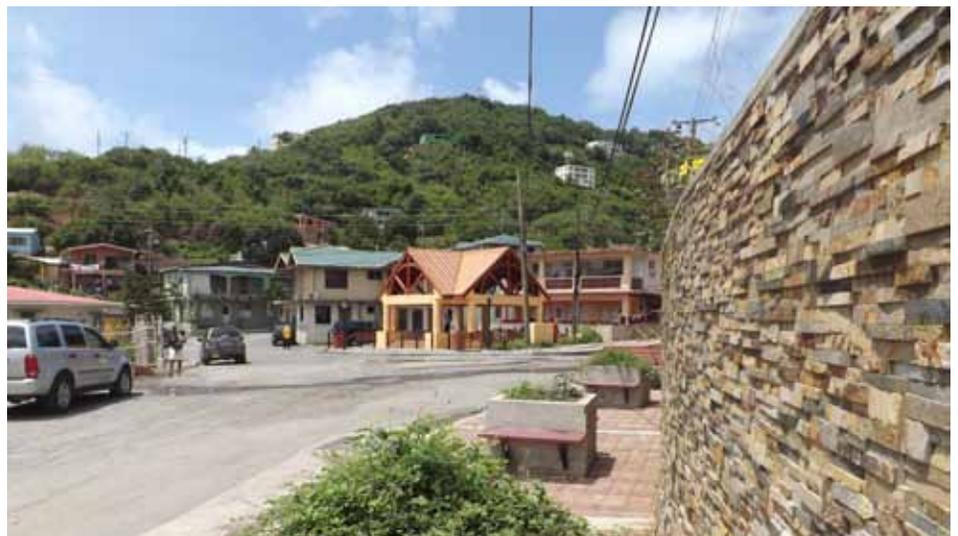
 ONGOING

In Government’s continued work towards a comprehensive plan for revitalise the Territory’s historical sites, the Virgin Islands Cultural Heritage Committee was established in 2012. There is representation from a cross section of Government agencies to ensure collaborative support for the promotion of the Culture Policy.

On July 24, 2013 “The Stickett” was re-dedicated and re-opened. It is an area of historical significance once popular for gatherings, town meetings and community discussions.

In January 2012, Government donated \$15,000 to stabilise the St. Philip’s Anglican Church also known as the Church of the Freed Africans.

On March 12, 2013, the Georges family building on Main Street, site of the first Virgin Islands Senior School, was declared a historic site following a commemorative ceremony and plaque unveiling in honour of Thomas Dixon Green, who established the school on May 3, 1943. He was the first Principal and Supervisor of Education on the Territory.



NEW STICKETT

# Strengthening the Educational Sector

## 42. Honour national heroes through national holidays, the naming of national buildings, parks and other facilities.

### ONGOING

In recognising the importance of stalwarts who were instrumental in the development of the Virgin Islands, Government announced during the 2013 Emancipation Service at the Sunday Morning Well that it will introduce a National Hero Award beginning next year. It is anticipated that the presentation will coincide with the 60th Anniversary celebration.



UNVEILING OF PLAQUE AT VIRGIN ISLANDS SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAIN STREET

## 43. Develop a national sports policy



In October 7, 2013, the National Sports Policy was laid on the table in the House of Assembly.

The National Sports Policy serves to provide guidance to enhance the integration of sports into the national development agenda and to support the opportunities to create a better quality of life through increased involvement and training in sports.

The document outlines the guiding principle for all sporting activities in the Territory and also seeks to establish a National Sports Council as the national coordinating body to bring all sports programmes in line according to international standards and to also ensure an effective afterschool sports programme.

One of the major objectives in the policy is the promotion of the Sports Tourism.

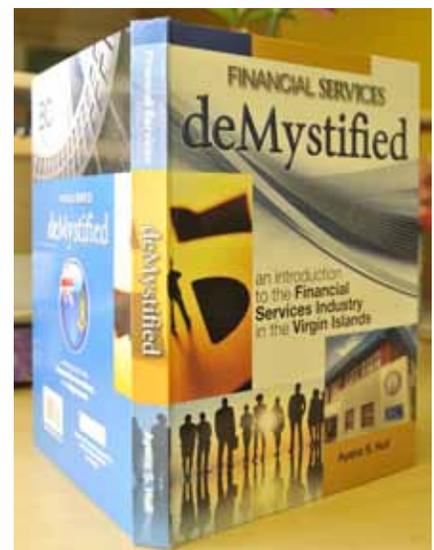
Another objective of the policy is to create opportunities for sports associations and stakeholders to upgrade their levels of information, skills and general competences.

Government will continue to improve funding to financially support athletic associations and athletes in sports development.

## 44. Introduction of tourism and financial services education at the secondary levels.



In recognising the need to establish tourism education at the secondary level, Tourism studies, Financial Services and Virgin Islands History were introduced as separate subjects during the 2013-2014 school year. Teaching material include the book, "Financial Services deMystified" written by Ayana Hull.



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

## 45. Recognise the need to improve community policing through the establishment of consultative groups in several communities.

 ONGOING

In order to improve crime prevention and detection and to enhance community and public relations, Police Community Groups have been established and are being developed across the Territory – East End/Longlook, Nanny Cay-Havers, Belmont, Brewers Bay, Cane Garden Bay, Road Town, Virgin Gorda - North Sound and Valley as well as Jost Van Dyke and Anegada. As part of this programme 'Neighbourhood Watch Schemes' are being developed in these areas.

In order to support the Community Consultative Groups/Neighbourhood Watch Schemes the RVIPF are introducing neighbourhood Police Officers dedicated into specific local Neighbourhoods.

There are currently six Neighbourhood Officers spread-out across Long Look & Fat Hogs Bay, Huntums Ghut & Lower Estate, Main Street & Central Road Town, Purcell Estate & Baugher's Bay, Valley Virgin Gorda, and North Sound Virgin Gorda.

Steps are being taken to for Neighbourhood Police Officers to be present in other communities.



POLICE MARINE AT WORK

## 46. Recognise the need for improved relations between the youth and the police by having the police actively engaged in the life of the community.

### ONGOING

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force has developed School Resource Officers within this role working with the Ministry of Education to engage with young people in schools and out in the neighbourhoods.

The Police force continues to engage with and run community youth focused events. It also works with Schools, Education Officers, the community and young people with anti-crime and gang prevention initiatives.

## 48. Recognise the need to support the emergence and existence of organisations like “CrimeStoppers.”

### ONGOING

In March 2012, Government thrust its weight behind Crime Stoppers initiatives and pledged support to its “relaunch and reload” campaign aimed at building communities awareness and knowledge of the role of Crime Stoppers in the BVI.

## 49. Recognise the need to create efficiencies in the management of our borders.

### ONGOING

Government is currently revising the immigration policy.

Coming on stream is implementation of the Residence Academy, a series of training workshops geared towards educating the public and key stakeholders like travel agents, event promoters, ferry operators, charter companies on the official documents or requirements are needed for entry into the Virgin Islands.

Persons will learn about requirements for issuing and renewing entry permits; how extensions to landing permits are granted; how applications are processed like the certificate of residence and belonger status; and how non-belongers land holding identification card are granted.

## 47. Recognise the need for having surveillance cameras in strategic areas of the Territory.

### ONGOING

In preventing, detecting and reducing crime, Government is working closely with the police force through the National Security Council to ensure the ongoing installation of CCTV surveillance cameras. In 2012, 24 cameras were purchased.



POLICE AT SEA



CUSTOM K-9 UNIT

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



CUSTOMS K-9 UNIT

## 50. Introduce programmes to combat crime



To support the community policing efforts, Government through the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force instituted an amnesty period from November 19 – December 19, 2012, asking residents of the Virgin Islands to voluntarily turn in any illegal firearms, or encourage people they knew who were in possession of such weapons. Other crime prevention initiatives will be introduced to combat crime.

## 51. Restructuring the Prison System

 ONGOING

Government is in the process of developing a better Management Plan for Prisons to ensure there is effective rehabilitation of inmates.

Government held a job fair to recruit prison officers to help improve the system.

Prison officers and senior officials were certified as facilitators following the completion of the “Just Think” Intervention Programme, a cognitive-behavioural programme for medium to high risk offenders which assesses offender’s thinking skills and encourages them to apply their new thinking skills to manage their risk factors more effectively.

Twenty-two inmates successfully completed anger management and House of Healing, rehabilitative programmes at Her Majesty’s Prison.

Prison Officers completes management training to improve the way they work in the prison.

Officers and inmates participated in health screening as part of Men’s Health Week.

Ministry of Education and Culture hosts a four-day strategic plan workshop aimed at overcrowding, inmate healthcare needs, the prison physical structure, security matters and rehabilitation.

In 2012, members of Parole Board were in a week long training to ensure the board functions effectively and implemented systems to being operations.



BVI IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT TRAINING

## 52. Introduce policy to encourage renewable energy, with the intention of achieving 20 percent of supply in the short term.

 COMPLETED

Cabinet approved a BVI Energy Conservation Programme in 2013. It involves the development and implementation of the programme aimed at enhancing energy conservation and the generation of renewable energy, as well as reducing the Territory’s dependence on imported fossil fuels and the cost of electricity to consumers. Broadly, it encompasses conservation, legislative changes, and use of renewable energy systems.

# Public Sector Reformation

## Communications and Infrastructure

### 53. Recognise the issues of sewerage in the Territory as documented in the 1980 Water and Sewerage proposals for Tortola to allow the priorities for all built communities to meet their demands.

 ONGOING

On February 3, 2013, Government signed a contract to commence Phase 1 of the Road Town component of the National Sewerage Project. It included the commencement of the pipeline construction phase of the Road Town Project.

Phase I, which concluded in early June, saw the installation of approximately 1400 feet of pipeline and 14 manholes. The installation works were focused in the vicinity of the Noel Lloyd Positive Action Movement Park extending to Vanterpool Enterprises Limited.

Government remains committed to solving the sewerage problems in the Territory and resumed works on the National Sewerage Project in 2013, focusing on the East End and Road Town. The contract with CBE was extended for a period of 10 months until November 30, 2013 to ensure effective completion of the project.

In forging ahead with Phase Two of the National Sewerage Project, Government supplied and installed new pumps for the Road Town pump station. The upgrades to the pump station have increased its efficiency, prevented overflows, and curtailed

the odour currently being experienced. Also included in Phase II, is the installation of 21-inch lines along Waterfront Drive and roundabout to replace existing eight and 10-inch lines.

Government through the Water and Sewerage Department continues to address the many issues of sewerage. Additionally, there have been improvements to the Prospect Reef, Vanterpool Plaza, and Greenland to Frances Lettsome school areas. Furthermore, there is an ongoing survey of Main Street and Baughers Bay to cleanup and correct illegal dumping into the ocean.



REPLACEMENT OF SEWERAGE PIPE ROAD TOWN



ROAD TOWN PUMP STATION

## 54. Recognise the need for giving vendors opportunities to make a living with minimal impact on our country's beauty by providing the requisite infrastructure to achieve same.



Tent City located adjacent the cruise pier was demolished in 2012.

Crafts Alive Village was rehabilitated in 2013 with the addition of new vendor spaces and restoration/ facelift to existing buildings and surroundings. Crafts Alive Village provides 60 vendor spaces and lots of green areas that residents and visitors can be proud of and enjoy for years to come. The opening of Crafts Alive Revitalised Village is representative of Government's commitment to improve aesthetics, connectivity to historical Road Town and increase the tourism product.



## 55. Aggressively pursue the expansion of the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport.



In order to develop and maintain a world-class airport that provides safe and efficient gateways to the world and entrances to the Virgin Islands, Government continues to forge ahead with expanding the Terrance B Lettsome International Airport.

So far the following have been completed:

1. Re-survey and update of all topographical data and digitising of same
2. Updated as-built plans of the Passenger terminal Building

3. Passenger traffic data retrieval, processing and update
4. Energy usage data retrieval, processing and update
5. Complete aviation fuel usage/demand data retrieval, processing and update
6. Bathymetric survey update (survey of the Trellis and Well Bay sea bed)
7. New Geotechnical survey (involving the drilling and retrieval of cores of the sea bed up to a depth of 60

feet including bedrock coring below the sea bed) in the areas of the proposed runway extension eastwards and westwards.

8. Redesign of proposed approach and departure flight plans and flight testing of proposed new approaches in the American Airline simulators.



# Public Sector Reformation Communications and Infrastructure

## 56. Declare Gun Creek a port of entry.

 ONGOING

Government declared Gun Creek a port of entry on Friday, May 18. This declaration reinforces Government's commitment to the development of Virgin Gorda. This port is a critical development for strengthening the Territory's tourism product, with benefits to both visitors and residents.

As a compliment to the existence of the port facilities, Government is also exploring with residents of Virgin Gorda the development and improvement of Gun Creek as a destination for commercial and business opportunities for Virgin Islanders.

BVI Ports Authority Board in 2013 approved the concept to build a second dock adjacent the existing dock in Virgin Gorda to separate passenger and cargo.

## 57. Review the current traffic situation in Road Town, with a view to providing relief to the motoring public.

 ONGOING

Public Works Department has completed road re-designs concepts in 2012, and it is ongoing in 2013. The completed designs concepts are to be approved and implemented/built.

The road from the Peebles Hospital to Sea View was completed in 2012.

The road from roundabout in Road Town to Waterfront was completed in 2013.



GUN CREEK

## 58. Recognise the need for the City of Road Town to be defined and a Management System set up to deal with the obligations of the Wickham's Cay Authority.



Government has re-established the Office of the City Manager. Office of the City Manager was re-established on August, 21 2012. Currently, discussions are ongoing to chart the way forward: whether the office should be a department, unit or statutory board.

## 59. Introduce a policy to promote recycling of items like plastics, glass and other such material that would be of benefit locally.



The Department of Waste Management launched the Glass Diversion System during the festival season 2013 to promote environmental consciousness and to prevent the waste glass from damaging the incinerator. A recycling initiative was started on Virgin Gorda in partnership with Green and Clean VI in Virgin Gorda during the summer of 2013. To date 30 recycling bins have been dispersed throughout the island to aid in the reduction of litter and collection of glass, cans and other waste.



RECYCLE BINS

# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

## 60. Immediately move to re-establish an International Affairs Secretariat.



In recognising the need to be diligent and vigilant about protecting and promoting the Territory's interests in all arenas, be they local, regional or international, Government re-established the International Affairs Secretariat in 2012 within the Premier's Office to coordinate all regional and international matter and to advise Government on all international economic, social, political and other developments that affect the long-term interests of the Virgin Islands.

## 61. Target Ship Registration and as a growth sector for the future.



The Virgin Islands Shipping Registry continues to focus its efforts on making the Territory an unlimited category one register to pave the way for larger ships to be registered in the Territory. Aggressive marketing is ongoing to improve the Territory's profile internationally.

The Government expects to have a presence in the London office before summer 2014.





## 62. Strengthening International Relations



On November 23, 2011, Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Hertfordshire County Council, United Kingdom, formalising the twinning arrangement, thereby extending cooperation in a number of key areas.

The BVI acceded to the Organisation of Economic Development (OECD) principles of information exchange and transparency with regard to tax matters. In further strengthening its international relations, BVI signed bilateral Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) with Guernsey on April 12, 2013 and Canada on May 21, 2013. The BVI continues to negotiate with other countries to enter into similar tax agreements.

BVI House Asia (BVIHA) was officially launched on September 5, 2013. This occasion marked a significant milestone for the BVI as a jurisdiction which has been active in Asia for more than a quarter century. BVIHA serves as a bridge for the BVI to strengthen our market in the Asian region and for us to establish a formal BVI presence in that region.

As a member of the OECD Global Forum and its Peer Review Group, the BVI continues to work with its partners and to reform and strengthen its laws and administrative systems to ensure the effective implementation of the OECD mechanisms and processes.

The BVI decided to enter into a Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) inter-governmental agreement with the United States to facilitate more information exchange. This initiative for global information exchange is necessary for the continued viability of financial services businesses.

Early on in March, BVI officials joined other officials from the Crown Dependencies and other Overseas Territories in discussions with officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Her Majesty's Treasury, Ministry of

# Re-establishing and Strengthening Regional and International Relations

Justice and Department for International Development. The discussions centered mainly on matters relating to the United Kingdom's G8 agenda and the need to address issues of bribery in accordance with the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials.

The BVI has also prepared a national action plan on beneficial ownership to meet the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards.

In a pre-G8 meeting in June 2013 with the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, the BVI joined other OTs in publicly stating its support of the Prime Minister's G8 Agenda and his focus on tax, transparency and trade.

Premier Smith recently concluded an international tour to raise the BVI's profile in the international tourism, super/mega yacht and shipping mar-



BVI SIGNS 24TH TIEA - GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

kets and to strengthen the Territory's relations with other Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs), European Union (EU) and the United Kingdom (UK).

BVI was elected Vice Chairman of OCTA at the 12th OCT-EU Forum in Brussels in 2012 and will be appointed Chair in the coming weeks.

BVI will host the 13th OCT-EU Forum in 2014 in the BVI. A senior officer from within the Premier's Office is now on a training attachment in the OCTA Bureau to build international capacity within his office.

The Commonwealth Secretariat conducted a Scoping Mission to the BVI between 4-6 July 2013 to gather information to assist the Government with developing an economic plan and to identify key areas for assistance and capability building in the areas of governance, public and

private sector partnerships, and small and medium enterprise sectors.

In an effort to gather the Virgin Islands' perspective on various matters affecting the Virgin Islands Community for the Caribbean Community's (CARICOM) Change Reform Process, the Government of the Virgin Islands welcomed members of the CARICOM Change Facilitation Team (CFT) on 30th October – 1st November, 2013 to hold National Consultations with various stakeholders to develop a Strategic Plan for the period of 2014-2018. Some areas of discussion were on transportation, trade, public private partnership, agriculture, energy security, crime and security, economic recovery, growth and development, health and youth development.

# LEGISLATION

## 2012 - 2013



**IN 2012, THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION WERE PASSED:**

1. Customs Management and Duties (Amendment) Act
2. Appropriation Act
3. Marriage (Amendment) Act
4. Recreation Trust (Amendment) Act
5. BVI Business Companies (Amendment) Act
6. Employee Mobility Act
7. Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act
8. Social Security (Amendment) Act
9. Public Finance Management (Amendment) Act
10. Non-Profit Organisations Act
11. Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Amendment) Act
12. Partnership (Amendment) Act
13. Securities and Investment Business (Amendment) Act



**IN 2013, THE FOLLOWING LEGISLATION WERE PASSED:**

1. Police (Amendment) Act
2. Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act
3. Youth Courts (Amendment) Act
4. Trust Corporation (Probate and Administration) (Amendment) Act
5. Banks and Trust Companies (Amendment) Act
6. Trustee (Amendment) Act
7. Virgin Islands Special Trusts (Amendment) Act
8. Medical (Amendment) Act
9. Trade Marks Act
10. Mutual Legal Assistance Tax Matters (Amendment) Act
11. Authorisation of Surveillance Devices Act

