

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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## Postal Leaders Discuss Modernising Services in the Region

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A three-day conference was held in the Territory to discuss advancing postal services in the Virgin Islands. The conference included topics exploring digital transformation and integrating technology such as artificial intelligence.

The conference was hosted by Caribbean Postal Union (CPU) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in collaboration with the British Virgin Islands Postal Services from March 25 to 27 under the theme, "Adapting to the Future: Enhancing Operational Efficiency and Innovation through Leadership in Postal Services."

Premier and Minister of Finance, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, who gave the Keynote Address noted that the postal service is a cornerstone in the operation of any society but has been threatened by emerging trends and, therefore, should evolve with technology.

"In this digital age, where e-commerce is not just a trend but a way of life, our postal services play an important role in connecting communities and supporting economies. The rapid acceleration of online shopping has fundamentally altered consumer expectations, and we, as leaders in the postal sector, must adapt our operations accordingly." Premier Wheatley said.

He added, "The BVI, like many small island developing states, faces unique challenges in adapting to the e-commerce boom. Our geographical location, limited infrastructure and resources, and the need to balance economic development with environmental sustainability, require innovative solutions. We must leverage technology to streamline logistics, improve delivery times, and enhance customer experience, all while ensuring that our operations are sustainable, secure, and resilient."

Twenty-nine postal leaders from across the region were in attendance as they discussed the various challenges and opportunities within the postal sector, including:

- Embracing e-commerce and data-driven operations
- Exploring digital transformation and customer experience enhancements
- Integrating emerging technologies, such as AI and blockchain

• Strengthening leadership to navigate change and drive innovation

Read the Premier's full Keynote Address here: <a href="https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/keynote-address-premier-and-minister-finance-honourable-dr-natalio-d-wheatley-caribbean">https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/keynote-address-premier-and-minister-finance-honourable-dr-natalio-d-wheatley-caribbean</a>

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