

PRESS RELEASE

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119 Naturalised as British Overseas Territories Citizens

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119 persons are now British Overseas Territories Citizens following two ceremonies held at Government House on 25th and 28th March.

During the ceremonies, the newly naturalised individuals heard congratulatory remarks from His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Daniel Pruce, Premier of the Virgin Islands, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, and Registrar General, Mrs. Tashi O'Flaherty-Maduro.

During his remarks, Governor Pruce reminded the celebrants that Naturalisation is an enriching process from which the Virgin Islands gains. He expressed that the intermingling of cultures and ways of thinking brings benefits that will reach the entire community.

Governor Pruce said," The shared values in our community include respect and concern for others who are less fortunate, or simply those who are considered to be different. Perhaps, when you first came here, you felt different yourself. But, as the Bible reminds us, you shall love the stranger, for you were once strangers in the land."

Premier and Minister of Finance Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley welcomed the individuals to the Virgin Islands family. Honourable Wheatley said, "I enjoy coming to these ceremonies and seeing individuals who have contributed immensely to our society. I know the road here for many of you has been a long road, and to come to this point must be deeply moving and special for you, as it is for me, to see you become a part of the family."

The Premier added, "This moment is more than just receiving papers, you are joining a family. Before, you may have had another home, and we are not telling you to give up the home you had before, but now you have two homes. You may have had a flag before, but now you have two flags. And, we want you to be able to defend the Virgin Islands as if you have ancestors from here, dating back to the days of slavery."

Registrar General, Mrs. Tashi O'Flaherty-Maduro said citizenship is far more than a legal formality adding that it signifies your connecting to the Virgin Islands.

Mrs O'Flaherty-Maduro said, "Citizenship represents your commitment to its values and your role in shaping its future. It represents a bond to a rich history, a diverse community, and a set of shared rights and responsibilities. Today, you become part of that legacy and we are proud to welcome you as fellow citizens."

Naturalisation is the process under the British Nationality Act, 1981, that allows indviduals who have met the criteria, to become British Overseas Territories Citizens.

The 119 new British Overseas Territories Citizens are:

Mohammad S. Abdulsalam

Paula Melrose Ajarie

Joel Ian Antione

Sandra Veronica Arringdell

Bernadette Myrtle Athanaze

Cristell Nalda Athanaze

James Athanaze

Candice Stacy Bolondia

Aldan Winston Bertham

Rondell Andre Braveboy

Joyce Michelle Bruce

Douglas Lester Butler

Joan Ivolyn Butt

Thorn Corderow Carey

Belinda Louise Dabbs

Camelia Roxanne Daniel

Rashenna Kaffilla Dawson

Brian Edward Deane

Digna Poueriet De DeCastro

Orville O'Neil Dunkley

Roberta Lorie-Ann Ellis

Annelle Adelia Francis

Alicia Eugenie Gilbert

Ceon Adrian Hartman

Beverly Doreen Headlam

Norma Elaine Higgins

Gavin Anthony Hinds

Dickson Chukudiamara Igwe

Roxanne Evelyn James

Dennis Gavon Milton Jones

Teresa Joseph

Vanicia Argel Liddie

Ernesta Francelia Maloney

Joseph Raymond Xavier Maloney

Judith Agatha Martin

Duklin George McDonald

Avril Sunelia Mendes

Jim Robertson Mendes Carla May Morton Cecilia Titre-Nicholas Daniel Philippe Glenny Gonzales-Pickering Petronella Caroline Pope Michelle Theresa Quashie Sharon Rameshar Khemragie Ramotar Olfred Cradie Sharpe Roslyn Deborah Simmons Rebecca Patricia Spencer Loraine Rodney Spencer Jo-Ann St. Rose Blondina Idella Sutton Sanchia Simone Thompson Decoomarie Tillack Dhanmattie Tillack Peter John Twist Carol Emelda Williams Laurence Christopher Wintz

Quincy St. Orbis Narcelius Woolford

David Joseph Andrews Marguerite Arthur Jocelyn Blake Mecheal Kesha Baird Andrew Claxton Campbell Mary Agatha Campbell Wayne Richardo Carter Anthony Tony Ceasar Irvinia Damier Ceaser Otis Ortix Claxton Basilia Daniela Ramona Cole Vicki Natasha Clarke Timothy Paul Dabbs Sowbhagyawattie Deoraj Shelly Ann Baker Donovan Ellen Erwin Angela Robertha Farrell Anestasia Sordia Felix Dexter David Fortune Shurma Nesta Fortune Alfred Ludlow Francis Peter Anthony Francis

Marino Lorenzo Garcia Velma Monica Harry Dordea Leslyn Hartman-Hastings Shawn Adwane James Catherine Andresine Hodge-Jeremiah Glenroy Leon Johnson David Jolly Sonia Joseph Joan Richardson-Liburd Jerrol Mc Kenzie Rodger Linton Miller Jennifer Marie Myers Paul Samson Myers Richard William Nichol Blessing Chukwugozie Okpara Ogechukwu Blessing Okpara Dulce Maria Pena O'Neil Ana Isla Tania Javier De Ortiz Marvalene Pinnock Ann Ramgadoo Patricia Devi Ramgobin Glory Ramjawan

Sylvia Lenora Richards **Elcon Cedric Roberts** Kayanna Marian Shorne Roberts Cruz Guerrero Rivera John Calvert Robin Ramona Maria Acevedo Rodriguez Belkis Iris Cuevas Sanchez De-Samuel Juan Gerardo Nunez Santana Kaminee Seenarine Totaram Silchand Jesse Alexander Sobers Jeremy Stephen Walcott Feebles Bryan Williams Paschale Welina Williams Rick Nelson Williams Nalita Winter

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