
Remarks By Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley Minister For Health And Social Development on Nurses Week 2025

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Minister For Health And Social Development

Nurses Week 2025

A very pleasant and blessed Virgin Islands Good Morning to all of you.

I am Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley, Minister for Health and Social Development.

I am honoured to be here with you this morning as we celebrate Nurses Week 2025. This week, we acknowledge the remarkable men and women who form the backbone of our healthcare system — our nurses.

The theme this year, “***Our Nurses. Our Future. Caring for Nurses Strengthens Economies***,” reminds us that you, our nurses are not only essential to the delivery of quality healthcare — but you are also vital drivers of national development. This theme underscores the fact that when we invest in our nurses, we are investing in a healthier population, a more resilient workforce, and a stronger economy.

Throughout The Virgin Islands, nurses continue to demonstrate unmatched courage, compassion, and commitment. Whether it is here at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital, in private hospitals, at community or private clinics, or in private homes and assisted living facilities, nurses provide care at every stage of life. They are there at the beginning of life, at the bedside through illness, and offering comfort in the final moments. Behind every recovered patient, every reassured family, and every life saved, there is a nurse whose dedication made a difference.

As Minister for Health and Social Development, I want to encourage our nurses to stay steadfast in your calling, knowing that your dedication does not go unnoticed. I know that it is not easy — the long hours, high-stress situations, mixed with limited resources — yet you continue to show up with compassion, professionalism, and resilience.

We see you! We value you! We appreciate you! You are the heartbeat of the healthcare system.

While we celebrate you, we are also cognizant that our words must be matched by action. This is why, as Minister for Health and Social Development, I continue to advocate on your behalf for more competitive compensation packages, increased training opportunities, and the resources you need to perform your duties safely and effectively. You deserve not just our appreciation, but our investment — because, as this year's theme emphasises, when we support our nurses, we strengthen our entire economy.

Additionally, the Ministry is in the final stages of completing the updated Alliance Agreement between the National Health Insurance and the BVI Health Services Authority. The revised agreement introduces new payment models - which will benefit you, our nurses, strengthened quality standards, and greater transparency. These improvements will enhance service delivery, improve patient outcomes, and support the long-term sustainability of our health system.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to strengthening nursing in The Virgin Islands — not only to meet the current demands of healthcare, but to prepare for the future. A future in which nurses are

respected, empowered, and supported to lead.

Today, as we shine a light on the individuals who give so selflessly, let us also reflect on the broader picture: that a nation that cares for its nurses is a nation that cares for its people. You are not just caregivers — you are leaders, educators, counsellors, and healers — often all in the same day. You are, in every sense, nation builders.

To every nurse across the Territory — and especially those gathered here today — thank you. Thank you for your strength, your tireless service, and your steadfast commitment to the people of these Virgin Islands.

May this week of celebration uplift your spirits and remind you of how deeply you are appreciated — not just by the healthcare system, but by every life you've touched.

On behalf of the Government of The Virgin Islands, I extend heartfelt gratitude and say once again: Happy Nurses Week.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless each and every one of you — and our beautiful Virgin Islands.