

PRESS RELEASE

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Echo Crowned Champions as Prison Basketball League Concludes at His Majesty's Prison

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The Prison Basketball League, a transformative initiative hosted at His Majesty's Prison, officially came to a close this week with Team Echo claiming the championship title.

In a competitive final, Echo triumphed over Team Charlie with a final score of 52-39, while Team Bravo secured third place earlier in the day by defeating Charlie Remand 47-37.

The league, held in partnership with the BVI Amateur Basketball Association, is part of His Majesty's Prison's ongoing efforts to promote rehabilitation through structured and constructive programmes that focus on personal development, teamwork, and discipline.

Lecoy Hughes was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the season, also earning the title for most rebounds. Rudy Vanterpool distinguished himself by recording the most points scored in the league.

Superintendent of Prisons, Mr. Jay Kendall, praised the initiative and expressed gratitude to the staff and partners who made the event possible.

"The success of this basketball league reflects our commitment to creating meaningful and progressive rehabilitation opportunities within our facility. Sports provide an outlet for structure, teamwork, and emotional regulation — all vital components of personal development. I'm incredibly proud of the men who participated and showed resilience, sportsmanship, and determination throughout the tournament.," Mr. Kendall said.

The Superintendent added, "I must also extend heartfelt thanks to my dedicated team of officers, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organise games, ensure safety, and support the players every step of the way. I also like to thank Riteway Supermarket and One Mart Supermarket for sponsoring the league as it shows rehabilitation is a community effort"

Meanwhile, Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley, applauded the initiative as a vital step toward building stronger rehabilitation models.

Honourable Wheatley said, “Rehabilitation must go beyond confinement. It should challenge, inspire, and uplift. This basketball league represents a progressive and human-centred approach to rehabilitation that gives inmates a sense of purpose and helps them develop critical life skills. I commend the leadership of His Majesty’s Prison for thinking outside the box, and I also thank the BVI Amateur Basketball Association for their partnership and mentorship. Programmes like this remind us that true transformation is possible when we invest in people — even those who are too often forgotten.”

The Ministry and prison leadership plan to continue expanding rehabilitation efforts, including new partnerships, skill-building workshops, and mentorship opportunities.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to improving the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Gallery



