

PRESS RELEASE

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Permanent Secretary Ms Tasha Bertie Pays Tribute to Retired Nurses at Luncheon

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Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ms. Tasha Bertie, paid tribute to nurses across the Virgin Islands at a commemorative luncheon hosted by the BVI Nurses Association on Monday, 12 May.

The luncheon was part of the activities marking Nurse's Week, which was observed from May 6–12,

In a deep reflection, Ms. Bertie paid tribute to the nurses whose dedication helped shape the Virgin Islands' healthcare system and left a lasting impression on generations of families. She recalled her own childhood, during which she and her sisters faced recurring health challenges, and spoke warmly of the care they received at the hands of many of the retired nurses present.

"I look around this room and see the faces of women who poured their hearts into this Territory — who comforted the sick, stood by families in crisis, and gave children like me and my sisters a fighting chance through the roughest times," Ms. Bertie said.

"Your hands may no longer carry charts or give medications, but your influence continues — not just in the lives you saved, but in the lives you shaped. I am one of those lives. I stand here today in gratitude, as a daughter, a public servant, and a witness to the power of your legacy."

Ms. Bertie also shared that her mother was a nurse, adding another layer of connection and appreciation for the profession. She expressed sincere gratitude to the retired nurses for their enduring contributions to the health and well-being of the Virgin Islands.

The luncheon provided a meaningful opportunity to recognise the dedication and selflessness of retired nurses, while reinforcing the Ministry's commitment to honouring and preserving the legacy of those who helped build and sustain the Territory's healthcare system.

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

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