

Senior Citizens Celebrate Culture and Community at Annual Soirée

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Cultural pride and community spirit were on full display as the Social Development Department hosted its Seniors' Cultural Soirée as part of the observance of Senior Citizens' Month 2025.

The event, held on 10th May, brought together seniors from across the Territory and welcomed visiting seniors from the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) for a lively afternoon of cultural exchange.

The soirée was held under the theme, "Flip the Script on Aging" and celebrated Virgin Islands heritage through traditional food, music, dress, and practices, creating a space for elders to connect, share stories, and honour their contributions to cultural preservation.

The event featured displays of traditional cuisine, demonstrations of cultural customs, and performances that reflected the richness of Virgin Islands history. Visiting seniors from the USVI added to the festive atmosphere, sharing in the cultural experience and strengthening ties between the neighbouring islands.

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley, applauded the event's success and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to creating inclusive and enriching experiences for older persons.

Honourable Wheatley said, "Our seniors are the bedrock of this Territory and they carry our history, wisdom, and traditions. The Cultural Soirée is more than just a celebration; it's a reminder of the value our elders bring to national life. I am proud to see our communities coming together to honour and uplift our seniors. We will continue to invest in initiatives that allow them to age with dignity, remain connected, and live well."

Acting Chief Social Development Officer, Ms. Shirma George, expressed her appreciation to all who participated and helped bring the event to life:

"We are grateful to our partners, caregivers, staff, and especially our seniors who continue to inspire us with their energy and cultural pride," she said, adding, "Events like the Cultural Soirée not only foster intergenerational learning but also create joy, fellowship, and cherished memories. This exchange with our USVI

guests is a testament to the unity and shared heritage of our islands.”

Senior Citizens’ Month continues throughout May with additional activities aimed at promoting healthy ageing, social inclusion, and community engagement among older adults in the Virgin Islands.

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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