

## PRESS RELEASE

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## Department of Trade Launches Programme to Empower Local Businesses

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The Department of Trade, Investment Promotion and Consumer Affairs has officially launched its 'Igniting BVI's Economic Future' Outreach Programme with its first community engagement in the Fifth District.

The community meeting provided a comprehensive overview of the department's strategic initiatives and ongoing projects designed to foster economic development and empower local businesses. Topics discussed included:

- The Trade Licensing process
- Strategic collaborations with educational institutions
- Planned school outreach initiatives promoting entrepreneurship
- The Innovation Business Lab
- The Entrepreneurial Zone
- The MSME Grant Programme

Attendees engaged directly with the department's representatives, and gained valuable insights into its development agenda. They also discovered opportunities for personal and professional growth. The session provided a platform for feedback from the public and reinforced the department's commitment to transparency, inclusion, and community-led development.

Deputy Director Bobb said the Outreach Programme is a key component of the department's efforts to increase public awareness, foster stronger community relationships, and ensure that the business community is well-informed and actively involved in shaping the Territory's economic future.

The 'Igniting BVI's Economic Future' Outreach Programme will continue across the Territory in the coming weeks, with upcoming sessions scheduled as follows:

- August 19: Virgin Gorda
- August 21: Second District

- August 26: First District
- August 27: Jost Van Dyke
- September 2: Seventh and Eighth District
- September 4: Third District
- September 9: Sixth District
- September 10: Fourth District

The inaugural session was facilitated by Deputy Director of Trade, Dr. Lincoln Bobb, Business Development Manager, Mr. Leroy James and Honourable Kye M. Rymer, Minister for Communications and Works and Representative for the Fifth District.

All residents, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders are encouraged to attend and participate in this ongoing dialogue to help shape a prosperous future for the Virgin Islands.

For more information, please contact the Department of Trade, Investment Promotion and Consumer Affairs at (284) 468-2008 or email bvitrade@gov.vg | bvinbb@gov.vg.

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