GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Speaker of the House Announces Inaugural Newsletter

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When people stay informed, get involved, and share their views, it helps create a system of governance that is open, responsive, and truly focused on the needs of the community.

As we close this first issue of *House Matters,* we invite you to stay connected. Take part in public discussions, learn about the issues that affect you, and share your thoughts on the laws and policies shaping everyday life in the Virgin Islands.

Your voice is an important part of this journey.



The House of Assembly welcomes your questions, feedback, and participation. Together, we continue to build on our proud democratic tradition and shape a strong future for our Territory.

Thank You

for your continued trust and partnership.

The Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands, the Honourable Corine George-Massicote, today announced the launch of the inaugural newsletter, ‘House Matters’. The launch coincides with the 75th anniversary of the restoration of legislation in the Virgin Islands. ‘House Matters’, the name chosen by the Speaker, will provide residents with regular updates on legislative activities, regional and international engagement, and the standards that guide the work of the House.

“‘House Matters’ is an important step in keeping you informed and involved in the work we do," said Honourable Corine George-Massicote. The Speaker added,

"Our goal is to make sure every resident feels connected, heard and empowered. Inside, you’ll find updates on our work in the House, highlights from regional and international meetings, and a closer look at the values and standards that guide us. Most importantly, you’ll see how your voice, concerns and participation help shape the future of our democracy. We believe strong communities are built on strong relationships between representatives and residents, ideas and action. House Matters is our commitment to serving you with fairness, purpose and respect. As we move forward, we encourage you to stay informed, stay engaged and stay connected. Your voice matters, and your involvement makes our democracy stronger."

Key features of the inaugural issue include:

- A historical overview marking 75 years since the restoration of local legislative powers.
- Summaries of recent Bills, committee work and parliamentary milestones.
- Coverage of regional and international meetings attended by House members.
- Profiles highlighting the House’s standards, ethics and community outreach initiatives.
- A section showcasing how constituent input has influenced policy and legislation.

House Matters will be distributed digitally and in print; copies will be available at the House of Assembly offices and partner community centres. Residents may also

subscribe for direct email delivery and access archived editions on the House’s official website.

The launch forms part of a broader public engagement strategy tied to the 75th-anniversary observance, which includes community events, educational outreach and forums to solicit resident feedback on legislative priorities.

For Additional Information Contact:

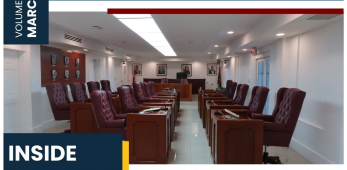
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Gallery

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HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS | PARLIAMENT UPDATES | COMMUNITY ENGAGMENTS

HOUSE MATTERS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Championing Unity and Progress
- Education Through Parliament- Inspiring Future Leader
- 75th Anniversary of the Legislature Highlights

And Much More!!



Championing Unity and Progress

In the first and second quarters of 2025, the Speaker, Hon. Corine N. George-Massicote had the honour of delivering keynote addresses at several pivotal events, each underscoring themes of unity, resilience, and the transformative power of legislation.



Education Through Parliament- Inspiring Future Leader

In a forward-thinking approach, the Speaker launched the "Education Through Parliament" initiative, aimed at instilling a deep understanding of democratic processes and fostering civic engagement among young people.



75th Anniversary of the Legislature Highlights

The Virgin Islands celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Restoration of the Legislature in November 2025. Many celebratory events were held in honor of this milestone

HOUSE MATTERS

Inaugural Newsletter of the Speaker of the House, Virgin Islands

Welcome to our First Issue!

This newsletter is an important step in keeping you informed and involved in the work we do. Our goal is to make sure every citizen feels connected, heard, and empowered.

Inside, you'll find updates on our work in the House, highlights from regional and international meetings, and a closer look at the values and standards that guide us. Most importantly, you'll see how your voice, concerns, and participation help shape the future of our democracy.

We believe strong communities are built on strong relationships between representatives and residents. Ideas and action. House Matters is our commitment to serving you with fairness, purpose, and respect.

As we move forward, we encourage you to stay informed, stay engaged, and stay connected. Your voice matters, and your involvement makes our democracy stronger.

Together, we are building a House that truly belongs to the people.



This inaugural issue marks an important step in strengthening accountability and ensuring that every citizen remains informed, empowered and involved. Within these pages, you will find highlights of our legislative work, reflections from regional and international engagements, and insight into the ethical standards that guide our service. More importantly, you will see how your voice, concerns and participation shape the future of our democracy.

We believe that strong institutions are built on strong relationships between representatives and residents, policy and people, and vision and action. House Matters reflects our promise to govern with fairness, purpose and respect for every member of our community.

"Celebrating Progress, Promoting Integrity, and Advocating for Public Representation."

As we move forward together, we invite you to stay engaged, informed, and connected. Your participation strengthens our democracy, and your voice remains central to the work we do.

Together, we are building a House that truly belongs to the people.

Enjoy,

Hon. Corine N. George-Massicote
Speaker, House of Assembly,
Virgin Islands

—Meet the Speaker—



Her journey began with a strong foundation in education and discipline. Having completed her schooling in the U.S. Virgin Islands, she went on to excel at the University of the Virgin Islands and Inter American University of Puerto Rico, graduating Magna Cum Laude and earning recognition on the National Dean's List. These early achievements reflected not only academic excellence, but also a determination to succeed.

Hon. Corine N. George-Massicote represents a new generation of leadership in the Virgin Islands, one defined by dedication, resilience, and a deep commitment to public service. As the tenth Speaker of the House of Assembly and only the third woman to hold this distinguished role, she continues to break barriers while setting a powerful example for future leaders.



In 2005, she made a life-changing decision to move to the British Virgin Islands, a step that would shape her future in profound ways. Beginning her career as a Legal Secretary at J.S. Archibald & Co, she discovered a passion for law that would guide her path forward. With focus and perseverance, she pursued her legal studies at Nottingham Trent University and completed her professional training in London. By 2010, she had been called to the Bar in both England and the British Virgin Islands, marking the start of an impactful legal career.



As a trial lawyer, she built a reputation for strong advocacy and a deep respect for justice and fairness. Her career later expanded into the financial services sector, where she served as Senior Legal Counsel at Trident Trust (BVI) Ltd., navigating complex legal and regulatory matters and strengthening governance practices. Her continued pursuit of excellence led her to earn a Master of Business Administration, along with professional distinctions as a Chartered Director and specialist in governance, risk, and compliance.

Today, as Speaker of the House of Assembly, Hon. George-Massicote brings together years of experience, sound judgment, and principled leadership. Her story is one of courage, growth, and unwavering service; a reminder that leadership is built step by step, through hard work, integrity, and a clear vision for the future.

Her journey continues to inspire, proving that with determination and purpose, it is possible to lead, to serve, and to make a lasting difference for the people of the Virgin Islands.

Keynote Highlights: LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Expanding the Virgin Islands' Voice on the Global Stage

Leadership is not only what happens inside the House of Assembly. It is also what happens on behalf of the people, in rooms where ideas are exchanged, standards are raised and democratic institutions are strengthened



Hon. George-Massicote at Common & Overseas Territories Speakers Conference

Throughout 2025, Speaker Hon. Corine N. George-Massicote proudly carried the voice of the Virgin Islands beyond its shores, championing the issues that matter most in today's world. From strengthening democracy to promoting digital safety and building public trust, her regional and international engagements reflected a clear commitment to modern, people-focused leadership.

A standout moment was her participation in the **4th Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers' Conference (COTSC)** in London. There, she delivered a powerful keynote address titled *"Keeping Democracy Running,"* highlighting the real challenges faced by democratic institutions today. Her message focused on the importance of protecting democratic systems, ensuring stability, and maintaining public confidence even in times of uncertainty.



Hon. George-Massicote at CPA Conference

Hon. George-Massicote at Common & Overseas Territories Speakers Conference

Closer to home, the Speaker also made an impact at a regional gathering of Women in Leadership through the **Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL)** initiative. Addressing the topic *"The Impact of Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women,"* she spoke candidly about the rise of online harassment, especially targeting women in leadership. Her message was clear: safety and respect must extend beyond physical spaces into the digital world.

Later in the year, she continued this important work at the **68th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference** in Bridgetown, Barbados. There, she led an engaging workshop titled *"Debate Not Hate: Not Accepting Abuse as an Outcome of Free Speech."* The session reinforced the Virgin Islands' commitment to respectful dialogue, responsible leadership, and creating safer spaces for public service and community engagement.



Hon. George-Massicote at CIWIL Initiative

These engagements represent more than attendance; they reflect leadership in action. By consistently representing the Virgin Islands on the regional and global stage, Speaker George-Massicote ensures that new ideas, shared experiences, and global best practices are brought home to strengthen our institutions.

Each step forward helps to build a stronger House, deepen public trust, and support a more transparent, respectful, and people-centered system of governance.

HOUSE MATTERS

HONOURING OUR LEGACY



75 Years of Legislative Leadership and Self-Determination

The 75th Anniversary of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands was a special moment for our Territory. Under the theme ***"Honouring the Past, Shaping the Future: The Virgin Islands' 75 Year Journey towards Self-Determination,"*** the celebration looked back on how far we've come while looking ahead to where we are going.

For 75 years, the Legislature has been at the center of our democracy. It is where decisions are made, important issues are discussed, and the voices of the people are represented. Over time, it has helped shape the growth and development of the Virgin Islands and supported our journey toward self-determination.

This milestone gave us the chance to recognise and thank the leaders who helped build the foundation we stand on today. It also reminded us of the importance of continuing their work with honesty, accountability, and a strong commitment to serving the public.

As we move forward, we do so together, with pride in our history and confidence in our future.

Celebrating Excellence: The Diamond Jubilee Gala

The Diamond Jubilee Gala stood as the flagship event of the celebrations. Hosted in an atmosphere of elegance and national pride, it brought together current and former legislators, senior public officers, regional counterparts and members of the diplomatic community.

Through ceremonial observances, keynote reflections and cultural performances, the evening honoured pioneering leaders and highlighted the enduring link between governance, heritage, and national identity.



Highlights from the Closing Church Service, Special Sitting of the House and Anniversary Concert

Investing in Tomorrow: Youth Engagement

A cornerstone of the anniversary programme was the Mock Sitting with Students, which placed young people at the heart of parliamentary life. Students assumed the roles of Speaker, Ministers, and Members, engaging in a structured debate and learning parliamentary procedure firsthand.

This initiative strengthened civic awareness, built confidence, and reinforced the importance of informed and engaged citizenship in sustaining democracy.

Reflection and Connection: Afternoon Tea with the Speaker

Afternoon Tea with the Speaker provided a space for meaningful dialogue and reflection. Former legislators, senior public officers and guests shared experiences and perspectives that underscored the human dimension of public service and the importance of unity and continuity.

Recognising Service: Diamond of the Season Awards

The Diamond of the Season Award Ceremony honoured individuals whose dedication and leadership shaped the Legislature over seven decades. Pioneers, trailblazers, and long-serving public servants were recognised across several distinguished categories, celebrating foundational leadership, parliamentary service, historic firsts and institutional excellence.

The ceremony highlighted the vital role of institutional memory and the enduring values of integrity, service, and commitment.



HOUSE HIGHLIGHTS | PARLIAMENT UPDATES | COMMUNITY ENGAGMENTS



Culture and Community: Anniversary Concert

The Anniversary Concert brought the celebrations to life through music and performance, showcasing local talent and cultural pride. It reflected the deep connection between democratic development, identity and community spirit.

Marking History: Special Sitting and Closing Service

A Special Sitting of the House formally commemorated the anniversary, recording the milestone in parliamentary history and reaffirming commitment to constitutional governance.

The celebrations concluded with a Church Service, offering thanksgiving, reflection and prayers for wisdom, unity and continued guidance for the Legislature and the people it serves.

A Legacy That Lives On

These events beautifully captured the story of the Legislature's 75-year journey: honouring the sacrifices of the past, celebrating the progress of today, and inspiring the leaders of tomorrow.

The anniversary served as a powerful reminder that self-determination is not achieved overnight. It is built through service, active participation, and a shared sense of responsibility by all.



Members of the House of Assembly and mock sitting secondary school participants



Afternoon Tea WITH THE Speaker

The Diamond Jubilee Gala















Additional Documents or Media

- press_release_speaker_of_the_house_announces_inaugural_newsletter.pdf