GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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East End Public Library to be Renamed in Honour of H. Lynden Smith

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The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports has announced that the East End Public Library will be renamed the H. Lynden Smith Public Library in recognition of the stalwart educator's distinguished and sustained contribution to education, reading and literacy development in the Virgin Islands.

The announcement was made during Reading Is Fun Week 2026, which was observed across the Territory from October 5 to 9 under the theme, "Read More, Know More." The occasion was particularly significant, as Mrs. Smith founded both the BVI Reading Council and Reading Is Fun Week, establishing a legacy that continues to inspire a love of reading among generations of Virgin Islanders.

Mrs. Smith has has been a longstanding advocate for literacy and has dedicated her efforts to fostering a culture of reading and creating opportunities for students to experience books as sources of knowledge, joy and discovery.

Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Honourable Sharie B. de Castro, said the renaming serves as a fitting tribute to Mrs. Smith and ensures that her contribution to literacy in the Territory will continue to be recognised for generations to come. Honourable de Castro said, "It is fitting that a public library, a place dedicated to knowledge, exploration, and lifelong learning, will carry her name.Through this honour, we celebrate her service and preserve her legacy in a space where that work can continue to inspire our community."

The minister added that Mrs. Smith's vision has helped establish a tradition that continues to unite public and private schools throughout the Territory in celebration of reading. "Her contribution reminds us of the lasting difference one committed educator can make across generations," Minister de Castro said, adding, "Mrs. Smith, thank you for your vision, your devotion, and your enduring contribution to the Virgin Islands."

The announcement was among the highlights of this year's Reading Is Fun Week observance, during which schools engaged students in storytelling, reading sessions and other literacy-focused activities designed to encourage a lifelong appreciation for books.

Reflecting on the significance of the observance, Minister de Castro emphasised the importance of literacy as a foundation for learning and personal development. “Every time we open a book, we open ourselves to new possibilities. Reading expands our knowledge, strengthens our imagination, and helps us understand ourselves, one another, and the world around us,” she said.

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports remains committed to advancing literacy development throughout the Virgin Islands by promoting reading initiatives, supporting educational programmes and encouraging a culture of lifelong learning. Through continued collaboration with schools, families and community partners, the Ministry seeks to strengthen literacy skills and foster a love of reading among students across the Territory.

For Additional Information Contact:

Ms. Angelique Lettsome
Information Officer I
Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports
Telephone: 1-284-468-9448
Email: anlettsome@gov.vg