GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Ministry of Health/BVIHSA to Host Ceremony Honouring Dr. D. Orlando Smith

Release Date: 12 November, 2026



The Ministry of Health and Social Development, in collaboration with the BVI Health Services Authority, will host a commemoration ceremony on Monday, 16 November, at 6:00 p.m. in honour of Dr. D. Orlando Smith and his longstanding contributions to healthcare in the Virgin Islands.

The ceremony will recognise the former Premier, surgeon and public servant whose name was officially bestowed upon the Territory's main hospital in January 2019, in recognition of his pioneering efforts to improve healthcare services for the people of the Virgin Islands.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ms. Tasha K. Bertie, said the commemoration provides an opportunity to celebrate Dr. Smith's legacy and acknowledge the important role he played in the development of healthcare in the Territory.

“Dr. Smith's contributions to healthcare span several decades. He served in various capacities at the former Peebles Hospital, including Medical Officer, Senior Registrar of Surgery and Surgeon, and served as the Territory's Chief Medical Officer from 1979 to 1995. Throughout his career, he worked alongside other healthcare professionals to provide care and strengthen health services, even during periods when resources were limited,” Ms. Bertie said.

The Permanent Secretary added that the occasion is also an opportunity to reflect on the hospital's evolution and the contributions of those who helped shape its development.

“Our hospital has a rich history, dating back to the establishment of the Cottage Hospital in 1922. From its early beginnings to the modern healthcare facility we have today, its development reflects the dedication of generations of healthcare professionals and leaders who have worked to improve healthcare for our people. This ceremony allows us to recognise that history while paying tribute to Dr. Smith's significant contributions,” she stated.

The ceremony will bring together Government officials, healthcare professionals, family members, community partners and residents. The programme will feature tributes, reflections on the hospital's history and development, and a special

presentation recognising Dr. Smith's service and legacy.

The Ministry and the BVI Health Services Authority invite members of the public to attend the ceremony on Monday, 16 November, at 6:00 p.m. at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital.

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to protecting and promoting the health and social well-being of the people of the Virgin Islands through effective policies, sustainable programmes and strategic partnerships that support a safe, healthy and resilient society.

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