

PRESS RELEASE

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Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre 81-Percent Complete

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The Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre, a landmark project for special education in the Virgin Islands, is now 81 percent complete.

During an official site visit on 29 March, Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, Honourable Sharie de Castro, highlighted the project's significance, stating, "The Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre reflects our commitment to ensuring every child has access to quality education in a space designed for their needs. More than just a building, it affirms our dedication to supporting and including our exceptional students. I'm pleased with the progress and grateful for the collaborative efforts to deliver a facility that will serve them well."

The visit was facilitated by Chief Executive Officer of the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (RDA), Mr. Anthony McMaster, along with the project team.

The project completion date was extended to the end of the second quarter of 2025 to ensure that the facility fully meets accessibility and safety standards required for its specialized purpose. Project completion was initially scheduled for March 2025.

The new learning centre will provide a modern, fully accessible environment tailored to students with special needs. It will feature therapy rooms, four accessible classrooms with outdoor learning spaces, a media room, library, multipurpose room, and specialized amenities designed to foster independence and dignity for its students.

Recognized as the first of its kind in the region, the facility will support approximately 30 students requiring specialist educational services.

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the RDA and project partners, remains committed to delivering a high-quality facility. The design was developed by TigerQi Architecture, and construction is being carried out by Autland Heavy Equipment Co. Limited.

The RDA thanks the public for its patience and continued support as the project advances toward completion.

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