

PRESS RELEASE

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Seniors Shine at the 2025 Adult Spell-Off

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Mrs. Sheila Brathwaite emerged victorious at the 2025 Adult Spell-Off: Seniors Edition hosted by the Social Development Department in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Development and VI Adult Spell Off.

Mrs. Brathwaite secured first place in a spirited display of knowledge and composure among some of the Territory's most respected senior citizens. Mrs. Sylvia George earned second place, while Miss Carren Mactavious was placed third.

The event also featured strong participation from other seniors including Mrs. Jennifer Bertie, Dr. Charles Wheatley, Ms. Mercedes Samuel, and Mrs. Eugenie Donovan, all of whom demonstrated that age is no barrier to learning and competition.

The spell off was part of the ongoing initiatives aimed at promoting active ageing mental stimulation, and community engagement among seniors in the Virgin Islands during Senior Citizens' Month.

Minister for Health and Social Development, Honourable Vincent O. Wheatley, commended the participants and underscored the importance of lifelong learning.

Honourable Wheatley said, "This event is a powerful reminder that learning and growth have no age limit. I salute all of our senior competitors for their courage, brilliance, and inspiration. They have set an example for younger generations and reaffirmed the value of continued education and engagement."

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Meanwhile, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Development, Ms. Tasha Bertie highlighted the Ministry's commitment to meaningful engagement for seniors

Ms. Bertie said, "We are proud to support programmes like the Adult Spell-Off that uplift our seniors and allow them to shine. It is truly heartwarming to see them take centre stage and remind us all of the power of perseverance, knowledge, and community spirit."

Additionally, Acting Chief Social Development Officer, Miss Shirma George, praised the event's success and community support, adding, "This spell-off is not only about spelling words, but about creating connections, celebrating wisdom, and fostering a sense of pride and accomplishment among our seniors. We thank all participants and supporters who made this event so memorable."

The Ministry of Health and Social Development remains committed to enriching the lives of seniors across the Territory through meaningful, empowering programmes that support their wellbeing and continued contribution to society.

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