

# Raul "Jougo" Sprauve of the Virgin Islands Receives CARIFESTA XV Icon Award

**Release Date:** 25 August, 2025



**Tortola, Virgin Islands** – The Government of the Virgin Islands proudly congratulates **Mr. Raul "Jougo" R. Sprauve**, acclaimed musician, entrepreneur, and cultural ambassador, on being awarded the prestigious **CARIFESTA XV Icon Award** on **24 August 2025** in Bridgetown, Barbados.

The Icon Award, one of CARIFESTA's highest honours, recognises individuals who have made **extraordinary and lasting contributions to Caribbean arts and culture**. Mr. Sprauve's recognition affirms his standing as a leading voice of Virgin Islands music and a regional cultural icon.

### **A True Cultural Leader**

A proud Virgin Islander, Mr. Sprauve began his teaching career before fully pursuing music, becoming the **lead vocalist and driving force behind Virgin Islands-Based Entertainment (VIBE)**. With **15 Road March titles** to his name, including those earned with Showtime Band, he has brought the unique sound of the Virgin Islands to audiences locally and internationally.

Through his leadership at **Home Grown Studios**, Mr. Sprauve has collaborated with Grammy-award-winning artists such as **Beenie Man, Beres Hammond**, and **Charlie Wilson**. He has also nurtured local talent and built the Territory's music industry. He is a dedicated youth advocate, having served as a **Big Brother** in the Social Development Department's mentorship programme and as a **Youth Assessor** for the Youth Court.

Junior Minister for Tourism and Culture, **Hon. Luce Hodge Smith**, praised Mr. Sprauve, stating:

"On behalf of the Government and people of the Virgin Islands, I congratulate Mr. Raul 'Jougo' Sprauve on this historic recognition. His artistry, leadership, and advocacy for youth have left a lasting impact on the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean. This award is a proud moment for our Territory."

Premier and Minister of Finance, **Hon. Dr Natalio Wheatley**, added:

"Mr. Sprauve's recognition at CARIFESTA XV highlights the depth of talent in our Territory and the power of our culture on the world stage. He serves as an inspiration to future generations of Virgin Islanders."

### **About CARIFESTA XV**

The **Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA)** is the region's premier multidisciplinary arts festival, celebrating Caribbean creativity and cultural diversity. The **Icon Award** honours individuals whose influence and contributions have made a **transformational impact** on Caribbean culture.