GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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58 Persons Naturalised as British Overseas Territories Citizens

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Fifty-eight persons have been naturalised as British Overseas Territories Citizens following a Naturalisation Ceremony held at Government House on Friday, 29 May, 2026.

The newly naturalised citizens received congratulatory remarks from Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., Premier and Minister of Finance Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley, and Registrar General Mrs. Tashi O'Flaherty-Maduro.

In his remarks, Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr. congratulated the new citizens and acknowledged their longstanding contributions to the Territory. Mr. Archer said, “The wait is over. And if you have any doubt if you were good enough, let me tell you, you're beyond good enough, because you're great. You're not just here by physical presence, you're here because of your contributions, your dedication to the Virgin Islands, and the impact you've made on the lives of others. We are extremely grateful and honoured to provide this recognition for the work you've done to make the Virgin Islands better.”

Reflecting on the Premier's remarks, he reminded the newly naturalised citizens that citizenship comes with a renewed commitment to the Virgin Islands. He encouraged them to embrace the Territory as their home, viewing its successes and challenges as their own, and to protect, strengthen and serve it with pride, passion and dedication as fellow Virgin Islanders.

Premier and Minister of Finance Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley welcomed the newly naturalised citizens into the Virgin Islands family and encouraged them to embrace their new status with a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility. Honourable Wheatley said, “Now we have many more persons who enrich the diversity of the Virgin Islands. In the past, we may have been defined by our smallness and our family connections, among other things, but today we have to be defined by our tolerance for differences. Despite the fact that we might be of different races, religions, countries of origin, it is possible for us to share the same values, to share the same principles and to share the same love for these beautiful Virgin Islands.

He continued; it's more than just receiving papers; you are joining a family. Regardless of where you come from, the Virgin Islands is your home. I look at you as Virgin Islanders of Lebanese descent, Dominican descent, Jamaican descent, Nigerian descent and many other backgrounds. We have to be able to embrace the Virgin Islands as home.

Registrar General Mrs. Tashi O'Flaherty-Maduro described the occasion as a celebration of belonging and shared responsibility. She said, “Citizenship is more than a legal process. It is a recognition of belonging, of shared values, shared responsibilities, and a shared future. It reflects your commitment to the Virgin Islands and equally affirms the Virgin Islands' embrace of you as an integral part of this community.”

The Registrar General noted that many of the new citizens have already made significant contributions to the Territory through their service in healthcare, education, business, community development, charitable organisations and other sectors that help strengthen the social and economic fabric of the Virgin Islands.

The 58 newly Registered British Overseas Territory Citizens are:

1. Audley Olanzo Bennett
2. Arlene Rose Marie Bobb
3. Urenna Nzinga Folayan Butler
4. Calisha Rachael Cayonne
5. Obi Fitz Patrick Chester
6. Ivet Rose Clarke
7. Omar Gaddafi Kwame Courtney
8. Natasha Ann Cush
9. Joseph Owusu Yeboah Daaku
10. Aiesha Elena Daniel
11. Audrey Denise Carol Griffith-Daniel
12. Samantha Alexis Daniels
13. Sylvia Jestina Debique
14. Jagnarine Deochand
15. Ikechukwu Samuel Emelandu

16. Rebecca Essumang
17. Banmatie Etwaru
18. Nehaul Etwaru
19. Alcyon Antoinette Gillings
20. Kempton Junior Halley
21. Sandie Nikacha Huggins
22. Rebecca Jane Redvers-Higgins
23. Chelcia Cheslyann Abigail Jackson
24. Vanessa Samanta Surujdeo-James
25. Sharon Blackett Jeremiah
26. Saad Kaddoura
27. Saif Kaddoura
28. Mahandradat Kaiso
29. Claudette Donnice Jessica King
30. Natalia Mandy Lawrence
31. Claudina Jno Lewis
32. Vernese Shikeba Guy Marquis
33. Marjorie Anita McCarthy
34. Melinda Equis McKie
35. Solomon Duhaney McKie
36. Jason Kelvin Seon Mingo
37. Juliana Diaz Molano
38. Brian Godfrey Moore
39. Vernella Pandora Moore
40. Alexander Nicholas
41. Craig Gareth Noblett
42. Tabitha L. Desbonnes Parillon
43. Milenia Altagracia Lugo de Penn
44. David Samuel Primo
45. Sharon Jennifer Primo
46. Sheldon Michael Riviere
47. Leon Roger Rodgers
48. Monica Haidee Osoria Del Rosario
49. Amelia Maria Angela Samuel

50. Earill Eraemus Sergeant
51. Jacqueline Jennifer Sergeant
52. Christopher Andrew Simpson
53. Roger Gregory Sinclair
54. Wrinisck Rene De Leon Vanterpool
55. Wrisberg Rene De Leon Vanterpool
56. Kimana Gabline Wattley
57. Martin Terence Whitrod
58. Tamica Anitra Sharlene Williams

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Additional Documents or Media

- press_release_58_naturalised_as_british_overseas_territories_citizens.pdf