

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730

Official Government Website:
<https://gov.vg>

Department of Trade Awards MSME Grants to 18 Local Businesses

Release Date: 20 August, 2026



The Department of Trade, Investment Promotion and Consumer Affairs has awarded grants totalling US\$165,000 to 18 business owners through its Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Grant Programme.

The grants were presented during an award ceremony held yesterday, 19 August 2026, and represents a direct investment in local entrepreneurship, employment and economic growth. Funding was awarded for start-up and business development across sectors including food services, tours, auto mechanics, plumbing, electrical services, catering, logistics, laundry, spa services and care for seniors.

This round included businesses from Tortola and Virgin Gorda and marked the first time an MSME grant was awarded to a business on Jost Van Dyke. The programme has also previously supported businesses on Anegada.

Minister responsible for Financial Services and Economic Development, Honourable Lorna G. Smith, OBE, said the funding reflects the Government's commitment to supporting businesses throughout the Territory.

"I want to give you my commitment, to reiterate my commitment to ensuring that whatever support you can receive from the government, whatever we can do to facilitate that support, we will do so." Honourable Smith said. "Make whatever service it is that you are giving as attractive as you can. And this is why we are giving you the kind of support that we are giving you. Not just to give any kind of service, but a good quality service. A service that the British Virgin Islands can be proud of."

Deputy Director of Trade, Dr. Lincoln Bobb, described the grants as a practical show of support for the 18 recipients.

"This grant funding is a direct vote of confidence in your vision, your hard work and your future. You are the backbone of our economy and today, we are putting real capital behind your momentum," Dr. Bobb said. "We cannot wait to see how you transform your businesses and strengthen the Virgin Islands."

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation, Mrs. Natalie Fahie-Smith, urged recipients to manage the funds responsibly.

“MSME grants are more than financial assistance. They represent an investment in people, businesses, jobs, innovation and the economic future of our community,” Mrs. Fahie-Smith said. “The objective is not simply to spend the money, but to use it as a catalyst for growth.”

Business Development Manager and Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Leroy James, said the programme forms part of the Department’s wider commitment to business development.

Recipients were also encouraged to participate in MSME Capacity Building Programme, offering trainings in digital marketing, financial management and business continuity, through the support from the Caribbean Development Bank.

The Department of Trade, Investment Promotion and Consumer Affairs will continue to work with grant recipients, monitor the use of the funds and provide business development support.

For Additional Information Contact:

Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation

mfseddt@gov.vg | 284-468-2112

Second Floor, Romasco Place
Road Town, Tortola
Virgin Islands (British) VG1110

Gallery





Additional Documents or Media

- [press_release_department_of_trade_awards_msme_grants_to_18_local_business.pdf](#)