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## ESHS Defends Their Crown In 2025 Inter-Secondary School Debates

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The conclusion of the Ministry of Education's annual Inter-Secondary School Debates was a nail biter as the Elmore Stoutt High School (ESHS) continued to reign victorious against the Virgin Islands School of Technical Studies (VISTS).

Chief Education Officer, Mrs. Orlandette Crabbe said, " The Ministry is dedicated to offering our students opportunities that promote critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and effective communication skills. The inter-secondary debate series serves as a key activity that nurtures development in these areas. We extend our gratitude to the coaches, adjudicators, parents, and our exceptional debaters for contributing to the success of this year's competition."

Deputy Chief Education Officer, Mrs. Heida Selwoold also added that, "The Ministry of Education extends heartfelt congratulations to all teams who participated in the 2025 Inter-Secondary Schools Debate Series. This was an outstanding debate season! Congratulations to the Elmore Stoutt High School the winners of this year's debate series. We commend the students and their coaches for their hard work, sportsmanship and commitment to excellence. My message to the students is to continue challenging ideas and strive for greatness. Well done to all!"

Auri-Ana ElShabbaz, Tyasia Cameron, and Syeisha Keith of the ESHS opposed the topic, "Compared to traditional schooling, a S.T.E.A.M-focused education system better prepares students for the future." The members of the team showcased their talent and exceptional debating prowess, which allowed them to clinch the 2025 Inter-Secondary School Debate Championships that were decided in the rebuttal section.

The VISTS team of Ellianna Forbes, Kellycian Paul, and Anya Thomas received numerous awards, including second best speaker, which was won by Ms. Paul and preliminary and semi-final debate awards. The prestigious overall best speaker award was won by Ms. Keith of ESHS.

An impromptu speech segment showcased the eloquence of students from various schools, with Ms. Laicha Nguyen winning the top spot for St. George's Secondary School, with Ms. Donya Davis of VISTS securing second place.

Persons can view the excitement of the final round on the Government's Facebook page at [BVIGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/BVIGovernment).

Photo 1: Photo of Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports Honourable Sharie de Castro, Chief Education Officer Mrs. Orlandette Crabbe and the ESHS debate team.

Photo 2: Photo of Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports Honourable Sharie de Castro, Chief Education Officer Mrs. Orlandette Crabbe and the VISTS debate team.

Photo 3: Group photo of all the teams that won awards at the debate finals.

(Photo credit: GIS/F. Skerritt)

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## Gallery

