



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Seventeen Locals Successfully Complete Workforce Readiness Training**

**Tuesday, July 15**-The Department of Labour and Workforce Development successfully hosted a four-day Workforce Readiness Training from July 1st to 4th, 2025, designed to prepare Virgin Islanders and Belongers for success in today's job market.

The training welcomed seventeen participants, ranging from different age groups. The initiative focused on soft skills development, interview techniques, resume writing, financial management, and provided important insights into the Virgin Islands Labour Code, 2010 and the Labour Management System.

Acting Commissioner of Labour, Mr. Mervin Hasting, in his welcome remarks, thanked participants for showing interest, and urged them to learn from the workshop as much as possible.

He said "This type of training better equips Virgin Islanders and Belongers with the essential soft skills needed to secure employment and grow within the workforce. A wide range of experienced professionals and industry leaders facilitated sessions during the training, including:

- Mrs. Vionnie Pickering, Director of Product, BVI Tourist Board
- Mrs. Natalie Lake Penn, Standards Manager, BVI Tourist Board
- Mrs. Atritia Perrera, Chief Financial Officer, BVI Tourist Board
- Ms. Stephanie Sylvester, Head of People, Necker Island
- Ms. Kadian Ferguson, HIRE BVI
- Officers from the Department of Labour in their respective areas



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Participants engaged in a hands-on soft skills activity, helping to reinforce teamwork, communication, and workplace etiquette. By the end of the four days, participants expressed increased confidence in their strengths, sharper interview techniques, and a clearer understanding of how to craft compelling resumes tailored to employer expectations.

The Department of Labour and Workforce Development remains committed to empowering the local workforce and will continue to offer programmes that help individuals navigate today's competitive job market with skill and confidence.