



Remarks by

Premier and Minister of Finance, Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley,

At The Bregado Flax Educational Centre Secondary Division Graduation Ceremony

on 23 June 2026

Today we gather to celebrate a remarkable moment in your lives.

I extend sincere congratulations to each of you. You have worked with determination, pushed through challenges, and remained focused on your goals. Your success today is the result of your strength, your discipline, and your belief in what is possible.

Your graduation theme, “Rooted in Strength, Rising in Purpose: A Celebration of Growth and New Beginnings”, beautifully captures the journey you have taken, and the bright path ahead. You stand here grounded by the values that have shaped you: faith, resilience, respect, and a commitment to excellence. Because you are rooted in strength, you can rise with purpose. You can step boldly into the future, knowing that you have been prepared for the opportunities and responsibilities that await.

This moment is not yours alone. Your teachers have poured their knowledge, patience, and passion into your development. Your parents, guardians, and families have supported you with love and encouragement. Your friends and community have stood beside you cheering you on. And the administration and staff of BFEC have worked tirelessly to create an environment where you could learn, grow, and thrive. To all of them, we offer sincere thanks.

Graduates, you have now completed this stage of your preparation for life and career. You have been certified, equipped, and empowered to move forward. New horizons are waiting for you. New skills to master, new challenges to conquer, and even greater achievements to claim. Do not be afraid of the unknown. Do not doubt your ability. You have already proven that you can rise.

As you step into this next chapter, carry your purpose with confidence. Let your strength guide you. Let your values anchor you, and let your dreams inspire you to reach higher than you ever imagined. The future is wide open, filled with promise and possibility. Look toward it with optimism and courage.

The Virgin Islands is proud of you. Your school is proud of you. Your families are proud of you, and today, you should be proud of yourselves. May you continue to rise in purpose, grounded in the strength that has brought you thus far.

Congratulations, graduates. May God bless you as you begin this new and exciting journey.

I thank you.

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