

RECOVERY MATTERS

2023 NEWSLETTER

- SPECIAL FEATURE:
Reflecting on Progress
and Reaffirming Purpose
- Governor and Premier
sing praises at Joint
Marine Shore Base Project
- JVD Multi-Purpose
Educational Facility. What
makes a school, a
school?
- CDB completes third
mission with the RDA
- ARE YOU THE ONE? RDA
Internship Programme
Spotlight
- FEATURE: 12 Reasons why
the RDA Planning Process
Produces Results.
- RDA Procurement process
– Gold Standard
- THE REBUILD: West End
Ferry Terminal



CEO'S WELCOME MESSAGE



We are happy and thrilled to announce the launch of our annual newsletter, Recovery Matters. This publication will highlight the progress made on recovery projects assigned to the agency and our impact on the Virgin Islands community - six years later.

In 2018, the Government of the Virgin Islands saw it fit to create the RDA, as a specialist project implementation agency with the responsibility for rebuilding the Territory's infrastructure from the devastating trio of 2017. The agency also holds philanthropic and capacity building mandates for the Virgin Islands.

The RDA, now in its fifth year, has successfully completed 41 activities across 25 distinct projects in 5 sectors namely: Resilient Infrastructure, Good Governance, Nurtured and Sustainable Environment, Cohesive and Empowered Society, and Vibrant and Innovative Economy. A total of 12 subsectors have been impacted namely Roads, Seaports, Water and Sewerage, Model Good

Governance, Security and Safety for All; Environmental Protection and Renewable Energy; Education, Housing, Recreation, Waste and Debris Management; and Tourism.

Do enjoy this edition. Happy Reading!

ANTHONY MCMASTER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REFLECTING ON PROGRESS AND REAFFIRMING PURPOSE

THE RDA AND RECOVERY SIX YEARS ON

By Kinisha Forbes

SIX YEARS ON FROM THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE NATURAL DISASTERS IN OUR TERRITORY'S RECENT MEMORY - HURRICANES IRMARIA - HOW FAR HAVE WE COME?



From an overall Territory perspective, it is clear that significant improvements have been made since the visible devastation of the mornings-after of Thursday 7 and 21 September 2017. A sentiment felt by many of us in the aftermath of the storms was that we had been knocked down, but were not knocked out. Since then, as a Territory – across public agencies, private businesses, communities and families alike - we have been in the process of getting back up, seeking to do so in ways which will make us less vulnerable in the future. This process of getting up has not been without its challenges though; not limited to the onset of the global coronavirus pandemic and its effects, evident impacts of climate change, and increased costs of living, all within a context of political waves and shifts.

On this the sixth anniversary of Hurricane Irma's unforgettable landfall in our Territory, the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) reflects on our role in recovery thus far: acknowledging our achievements, confronting our challenges, and envisioning a way forward for the Agency in the longer-term recovery and development story of these Virgin Islands.

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

In April 2018, the RDA was formed as a dedicated agency focused on the rehabilitation of our Territory's public infrastructure in partnership with the Government of the Virgin Islands. Since then, the RDA has completed some 41 activities across 25 distinct projects within 12 subsectors and 5 sectors.

These project activities have delivered results to the people of the Territory, including better school and recreational facilities, improved segments of road, increased water capacity, renewable energy generation, and rehabilitated police and administrative accommodations. These results have translated to thousands of teachers and students in improved teaching and learning conditions, road users experiencing better road conditions, a greener mix to supply our energy needs, increased access to public services across our four main islands, and better working conditions for public servants.



From inception, the Agency's mandate has involved project implementation, fundraising, and capacity building. Since April 2018, the RDA has delivered \$47.76 million worth of projects, raised \$4.27 million to supplement required Government contributions to infrastructural investment, trained 156 distinct contractors to improve local capacity to bid on and deliver projects, and engaged 23 interns across various fields including project management, communications, procurement and environmental management.

THIS VISION IS FOR THE BVI TO BECOME A MODEL FOR BUILDING STRONGER, SMARTER, GREENER AND BETTER, FOSTERING A VIBRANT AND INNOVATIVE ECONOMY, COHESIVE AND EMPOWERED SOCIETY, NURTURED AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT, RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL.

COMPLETED PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Cohesive and Empowered Society

Education:

- Redevelopment of Elmore Stoutt High School
- Bregado Flax Educational Centre
- ESHS Demolition
- ESHS Temporary Classrooms
- BFJS Internal Walls

Housing:

- Housing Repairs
- Temporary Housing

Pride and Cultural Identity:

- Anthonie Jeffrey Caines Sports Arena
- Anegada Recreation Facility

Waste and Debris Management:

- Special Debris Clearance
- Incinerator Dismantling

Vibrant and Innovative Economy

Tourism:

- The Baths, Virgin Gorda

Nurtured and Sustainable Environment

Environmental Protection:

- Marine Survey

Renewable Energy:

- Leonora Delville
- Ivan Dawson
- Jost Van Dyke Clinic
- Enis Adams Primary School
- Francis Lettsome Primary School

Resilient Infrastructure

Roads:

- Great Mountain I
- Great Mountain II
- Hope to Sabbath
- Little Dix Hill
- Bob's Gas Station
- Ballast Bay
- Long Trench
- Fish Bay
- Asphaltic Works

Seaports:

- Sea Markers

Water and Sewerage:

- Long Bush Reservoirs & Metering
- Carrot Bay Reservoirs & Metering
- Zion Hill Reservoirs & Metering

Good Governance

Model Good Governance:

- VG Administration Building - Cleaning
- John C. George Sr. MBE Administration Building (North Sound)
- Flax Administration Building, VG
- Vanterpool Administration Building, VG
- Theodolph Faulkner Administration Building (Anegada)
- Albert Chinnery Administration Building, (JVD)

Security and Safety for All:

- Road Town Police Station
- VG Police Barracks
- Estate House #1
- VG Police Station

CONFRONTING OUR CHALLENGES

In its initial conceptualisation, the RDA was to be principally fueled by loans secured by the Government of the Virgin Islands and guaranteed by the United Kingdom Government. With the proposed loan guarantee not eventuating, the RDA has principally relied instead on direct, unguaranteed funding from the Government of the Virgin Islands, inclusive of Government's Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan from the Caribbean Development Bank. The Agency has also been able to leverage funding from the UK Government, and the local private and not-for-profit sectors in delivering results. While this funding has enabled achievements for the people of the Territory, it is clear that the funding requirement to meet our prevailing development needs as a Territory has significantly outpaced these contributions. To continue to deliver results, and to meet our Territory's substantial development challenges of which we are all acutely aware, increased funding is a necessity.

As an Agency, we have prided ourselves on aiming to deliver value for money for the people of the Territory through best practice procurement and project management processes. Within a context of increasing prices globally and locally, spurred in part by the global coronavirus pandemic and rising energy prices, This has not always been easy. Through value engineering, competitive bidding and rigorous project management, we will continue to aim to maximise efficiency in our project delivery, as we are aware that much must be done within a limited envelope of resources.

ENVISIONING THE WAY FORWARD

Looking back on the six years since Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017, it is without question that while progress has been made – evidenced by the achievements recounted in this piece - much remains to be done.

The RDA has thus far completed 41 of the 81 project activities assigned to the Agency by the Government of the Virgin Islands. The recently approved National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), crafted from broad public consultation and input, sets out a broader aspirational vision for our Territory's development over the next fifteen years. This vision must be translated into deliverable project activities aimed at improving the lives of the people of the Virgin Islands such that the NSDP's aspiration for "A well-balanced, people-centred Virgin Islands built on spirituality, social justice and equality; nurtured by trust, cultural knowledge and participatory governance; strengthened by economic, environmental, and social sustainability", can be effectively pursued and achieved.

The RDA has demonstrated our ability to deliver results for the people of the Virgin Islands, employing procurement and project management processes which consider the social, economic and environmental facets of project planning and delivery. We are committed to continuing to work in partnership with the Government of the Virgin Islands in pursuing our Territory's people-centered, sustainable development, and look forward to continuing to execute our role in advancing the development story of these Virgin Islands.

JOINT MARINE SHORE BASE PROJECT

By Colene A. Penn



GOVERNOR AND PREMIER SING PRAISES

His Excellency the Governor John Duncan, CMG and Premier Honourable Dr. Natalio D. Wheatley lauded the praises of the RDA during a visit to the Joint Marine Shore Base project on 23 May, 2023.

"This is a great example of partnership between the United Kingdom and the BVI government working together with the RDA to develop a much needed project. A project which is going to support the police but also customs and immigration working in partnership together to tackle our maritime security and safety," the Governor stated.

His Excellency added, "We all know that we need an effective facility for this purpose, and I am confident from what I've seen today that that is what this facility will provide."

Premier Honourable Dr. Natalio Wheatley echoed similar sentiments.

"2017 is coming upon six years, and it is really time for us to really complete our recovery and move from recovery to development. We will be hearing a lot more in terms of our plans for the Recovery and Development Agency in transitioning to a Virgin Islands Development Agency (VIDA) because I'm really proud of the work that the RDA is doing."

The Premier added, "I want to take this time to appreciate CEO McMaster and his staff."

The Premier added, “Thanks for the work which you are doing to help us recover by managing these projects, which of course central government is in need of, the additional capacity and expertise, to be able to deliver.”

The construction of the new Joint Marine Shore Base Building, its infrastructure and boat storage platform is a continuation of the RDA’s ‘Security and Safety for All’ subsector of its Good Governance Programme.

This project is jointly funded by the Government of the Virgin Islands and the United Kingdom Government through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.





JOST VAN DYKE PRIMARY SCHOOL -

A MULTI-PURPOSE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

By April Glasgow

What makes a school a school? Is it a building? Four walls and a roof? Is it lots of books and other learning materials? Is it teachers writing on chalk boards? Students sitting at their desks paying attention to the day's lesson plan?

These questions arise as we are nearing the end of construction activities on the Jost Van Dyke School – a Multipurpose Educational Facility.

The Virgin Islands Recovery Development Agency (RDA), in its remit to build BVI *Stronger, Smarter, Greener, Better*, has been tasked to implement several projects and programmes across the Territory, in key sectors and measured by outcome statements identified by the Recovery to Development Plan.

HIGHLIGHTS

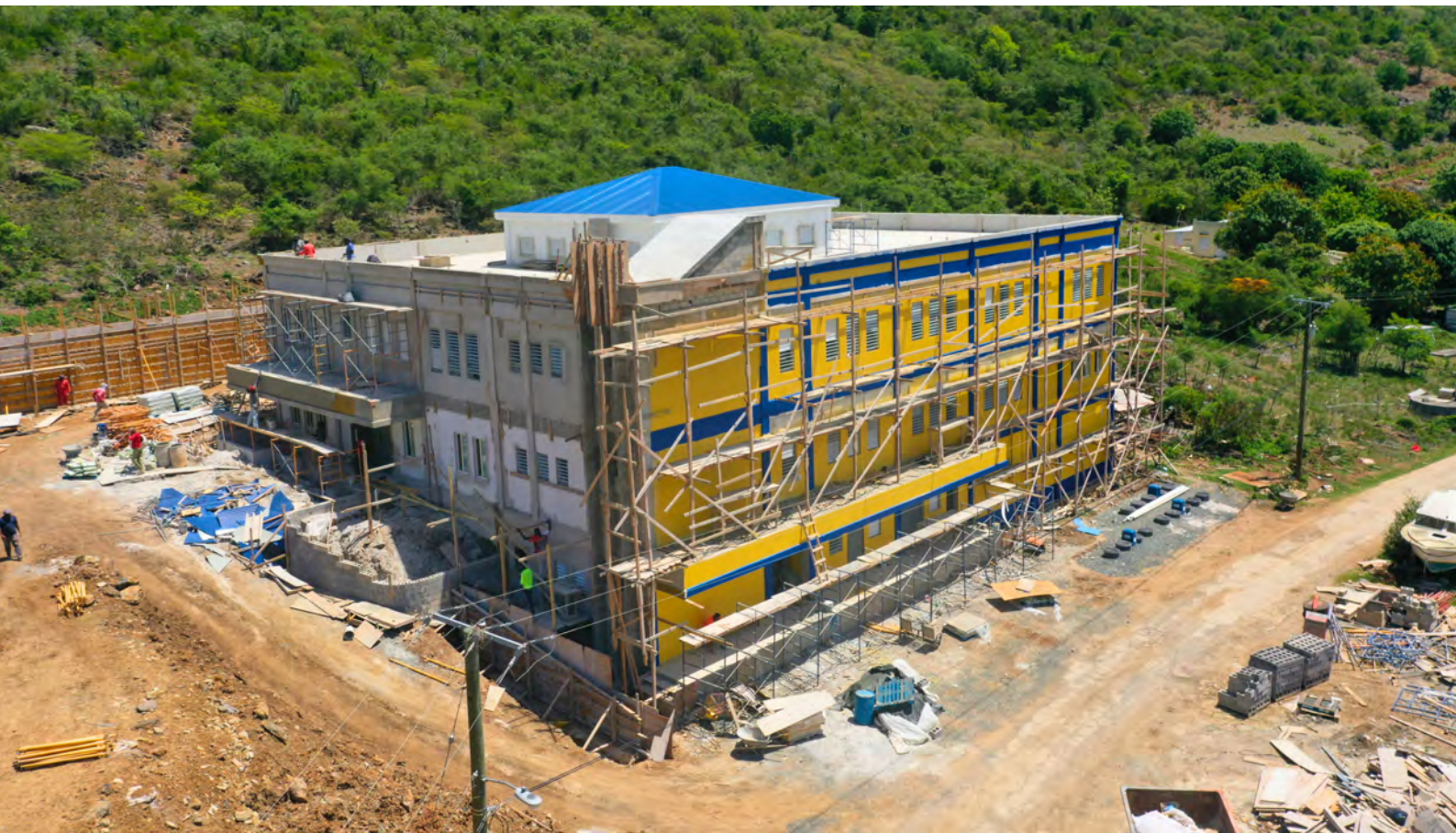
The Jost Van Dyke
Multipurpose
Educational
Facility

The Jost Van Dyke School is being implemented in line with the “Cohesive and Empowered Society” Sector, and guided by the outcome statement: “An education system that is modern and well-resourced, providing opportunities for a highly skilled, globally competitive population that can participate and contribute to a sustainable Virgin Islands economy.”

This school sits at sea-level in Great Harbour, adjacent to the Methodist Church. It was historically used to convey pre-primary and primary educational instruction.

After Hurricanes Irma and Maria, the school became unsuitable for teachers and students. Through the efforts of charities and philanthropic gifts, the school received some repairs to the main building, which is used now as storage, along with containers which were converted to temporary teaching facilities, a resource centre, and a principal and guidance office.

The current school sits at sea-level in Great Harbour, while the new structure is being built on a nearby higher elevation.



This location was chosen as the result of stakeholder consultation, highlighting the positive impact of community engagement and ensuring feedback is captured and reflected in project design and implementation.

The school's principal, Ms. Lavern Blyden, has served as an educator for 31 years. She started teaching at the Jost Van Dyke School from 2000 to 2008, then went on to pursue her Master's Degree in Education, before returning to the school as principal in 2014.

➤➤➤ A MULTI-PURPOSE EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

The project scope includes the construction of a reinforced concrete three-story structure (14,346 sq. ft.) consisting of two cisterns, 13 classrooms, Principal and Guidance Counselor offices, Sick Bay, Library, Music Room, Science and Computer Lab, a Staff room, parking facilities and a play area.

Quality Construction Limited began construction of the multi-purpose facility in October 2022, with oversight by the RDA's Senior Project Manager Solange Cooper and support from Project Management Intern Ajaalee Malone. Project Manager Lashuna Marshall led this project during the planning phase. The contractor is presently putting the finishing touches on the new school, with plans to 'ring the school bell' this Lent term.

Principal Blyden said the new school will provide space for learners from kindergarten up to Grade 6. The expected student enrolment stands at 26.

Happy to report, she says the new building is large enough to accommodate high school students, once staffed adequately. Interesting to note is that there was a point in time where the Jost Van Dyke School accommodated high school education, specifically Grade 7 and 8 students, before transitioning to the Elmore Stouff High School on Tortola to complete their secondary education.



In addition to facilitating class sessions for the student body and teachers, the school, in living up to its 'multipurpose' moniker, will allow for meetings, trainings, events, and other community gatherings.

Principal Blyden affirmed her hope for the establishment of after-school programmes, sharing, "I don't only foresee the creation of after school activities, but I also foresee the birthing of youth and parenting programs. It is hoped that they will eventually become benchmarks for other schools and community service organizations."

Aside from the benefits of having a newer, larger space for learning and possible after school activities, Ms. Blyden specified other benefits to morale. "Some of the greatest benefits I see the new school having on both the teacher and students are, the increase in morale and worth. When small islands with little populations have been mishandled for so long, they tend to develop mindsets that match their circumstance. When they are treated well, with what they deserve, their mindsets and morale shift and ultimately give hope to what they see as valuable."

>>> SO, WHAT MAKES A SCHOOL, A SCHOOL?

We asked Principal Blyden, who expanded upon five core energies: Spiritual Environment, Human Resources, Learning Resources, Community Interaction and Physical Environment.

"All of these components work together to create a healthy educational ecosystem that supports all teachers, students, parents and stakeholders in developing the competencies and skills need for long-term learners' success."

While the RDA is delivering the physical environment, it is our hope that the Jost Van Dyke School receives in full the other core energies outlined by Principal Blyden. This ensures the success and happiness of students, teachers, parents, and other members of the community, as we work together to develop a cohesive and empowered society.



"Some of the greatest benefits I see the new school having on both the teacher and students are, the increase in morale and worth. When small islands with little populations have been mishandled for so long, they tend to develop mindsets that match their circumstance. When they are treated well, with what they deserve, their mindsets and morale shift and ultimately give hope to what they see as valuable."

ELMORE STOUTT HIGH SCHOOL

PROJECT THROWBACK



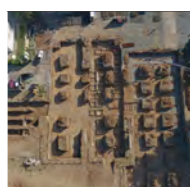
On 3 January 2023, a grand opening ceremony was held on the Elmore Stoutt High School (ESHS) campus for the four newly constructed buildings on the campus including two classroom blocks, a technical block, and an administration building.

The opening of these buildings has enabled all ESHS students to return to the main campus, resuming full-day schooling. The completion of this project marks the culmination of the largest project undertaken by the RDA.

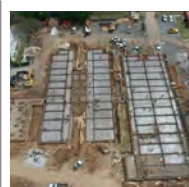
Future plans for redevelopment of the ESHS main campus include construction of an auditorium and cafeteria.



TIMELINE OF ESHS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



APR 2022



MAY 2022



JUN 2022



JUL 2022



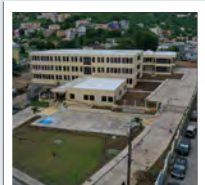
AUG 2022



SEP 2022



OCT 2022



NOV 2022

CDB COMPLETES THIRD MISSION WITH THE RDA

By Sergio Dantas



An official delegation from the CDB held a mission to the Virgin Islands as part of their efforts to monitor the progress of the Territory using the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Loan from 13 – 15 June, 2023.

In attendance from the Economic Infrastructure Division were Senior Operations Officer Mr. Glen McCarvell, Operations Officer Ms. Valini Nagassar, Operations Officer Ms. Debbie Lewis and Operations Officer - Environmental Sustainability Mr. Paul Saunders.

The mission comprised of numerous meetings with the Ministry of Finance, their Projects Unit, and the Recovery and Development Agency (RDA) where the CDB team was updated not only on the projects that are being implemented within the loan but also on completed CDB projects.

On Day 1, the CDB and RDA teams met virtually with INROS Lackner SE, the design consultants for the West End Ferry Terminal Project where the latest project updates and designs were presented. Meetings were held with the Ministry of Finance and their Projects Unit to discuss projects under their purview before returning to meet with Team RDA for an overview of the mission and updates on the projects under implementation.

Day 2 was filled with on-site project expeditions and the CDB Team visited several sites namely the West End Ferry Terminal, Carrot Bay Reservoirs, the Fish Bay Road Rehabilitation, the Eslyn Henley Richez Learning Centre, Halls of Justice (formerly Magistrate's Court), the ICT Project at the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, and the DDM Building. During these visits the team took the opportunity to see the improvements achieved by the projects and shared comments and opportunities for improvements in future developments.

Day 3, the last and final day of the Mission, the RDA Board of Directors held a special meeting organised to receive the impressions from the CDB Team and to provide feedback and eventual points of concern in a wrap-up meeting. A similar session was held with the Ministry of Finance.

RDA's CDB Contract Supervisor and Project Manager, Mr. Sergio Dantas reported that, "It was a very productive week, with a vast amount of shared information. The CDB team was pleased with the implemented projects and the sites they visited. As expected, recommendations were made, and we all agreed to closely watch the projects being implemented in the upcoming months."

WASTE MANAGEMENT

HOLISTIC SOLUTION PRESENTED TO MANAGE THE TERRITORY'S WASTE

By Colene A. Penn



The Government of the Virgin Islands has identified solid waste management as a priority area and the RDA has provided solutions to tackle the longstanding issue with the creation of a sanitary landfill and waste site rehabilitation with auxiliary services.

Recommendations to develop the most responsible and cost-effective means to dispose of landfilled waste in the Territory for the next twenty (20) years is the output of this project.

This work will allow for the design and ultimate contracting of a modern means for managing waste that will form part of a cohesive Waste Management Strategy.

A preliminary solution to solid waste treatment and disposal was presented to the House of Assembly on 17th February, 2023. Subsequently, a presentation was made to Caucus on 2nd August then a joint presentation was made to the Ministry of Health by the RDA and Consultants WSP, formerly Wood Group on 25 August, 2023. A decision is now being awaited on the way forward.

FEATURE

12 Reasons why the RDA Planning Process Produces Results

By Dr. Neil Smith



The RDA relies on transparency and good governance practices as cornerstones of its existence and the ability to provide value for money for the people of the Virgin Islands. Central to this are clear and auditable processes that allow the Agency to provide confidence and reliability to its stakeholders.

The 12 step project flow process was developed as a means by which to improve on the transparency, consistency, and accountability of the RDA in the way it processes projects, by demarcating the individual steps in the process and assigning responsibilities and deliverables to each step in the process.

RDA 12 STEP PROJECT PROCESS



**ARE YOU
THE ONE?**

CAPACITY BUILDING

By D'Andre Lewis-Ambrose -RDA Intern

The RDA has a year-round internship programme that offers college students or recent graduates a modern working environment to learn and experience highly technical skills.

RDA INTERNSHIPS ARE OFFERED IN TEN AREAS, NAMELY:

- Business Administration
- Finance
- Communications
- Procurement
- Environmental Management
- Philanthropy
- Community Engagement
- Project Management
- Strategy
- Internal Audit



RDA INTERN SPOTLIGHT - LEAH SMITH

Leah Smith, an Environmental Management Intern with the RDA, has grown tremendously during her time with the agency, first as an intern then as a trainee under the 'Traineeship Programme', which is a yearlong extension of the Internship Programme.

RDA INTERN SPOTLIGHT - LEAH SMITH

"I started my internship at the RDA in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. I was a recent graduate of HLSCC, and I decided to take a break from the madness that was going on, so I looked for an opportunity to be busy. I received the flyer for the internship programme, and someone told me it would be a good opportunity so I decided to go ahead and interview with the RDA."

Leah's mentor was Clive Petrovic, Environmental Specialist with the RDA. Highlighting the experience she said, "Working with Clive was an exciting journey. It was an honor to be able to experience all the knowledge and experience he has working in his field and the environment. He's always been very instrumental in directing me where I needed to go in order to develop my own ideas and solutions to issues with the projects".

Leah has worked on a plethora of areas while at the RDA, particularly, a mini recycling project. "I was able to research different alternatives for plastic bottles that we use in the territory. I was able to bring together a proposal and present it to different stakeholders and Ministers of Government and have conversations with persons from Green V.I. and the Environmental Health Division. Another take away was the confidence I gained executing these tasks and the importance of collaboration and teamwork to bring together ideas that can really help benefit the Territory."



Leah will be pursuing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Science in January 2023.

"I would recommend this internship to other people because it lent itself to promoting good relationships, knowledge and skillsets that can catapult your career forward. Working with Clive was an amazing experience. He's literally a genius. The knowledge gained from him is priceless, so I'd definitely recommend this internship to other people, for sure."



Interested in an Internship with the RDA? Contact our Head of Human Resources at Recruitment@BVIRecovery.vg. With this internship, you can be the one!

RDA INTERS 2019-2023



Kaleb Dawson
Project Management



Jonel Lacey
Finance and Project



Malik Corum
Project Management



Shaquille Lewis
Project Management



D'Andre Lewis Ambrose
Communications



Trevancia Lettsome
Business Administration



Charity Rymer
Environmental Management



Michael Palladino
Philanthropy



Tymia Fahie
Project Management



Malcolm Christopher
Project Management



Akyai Herbert
Project Management &
Business Administration



Lornique Green
Project Management

RDA INTERS 2019-2023



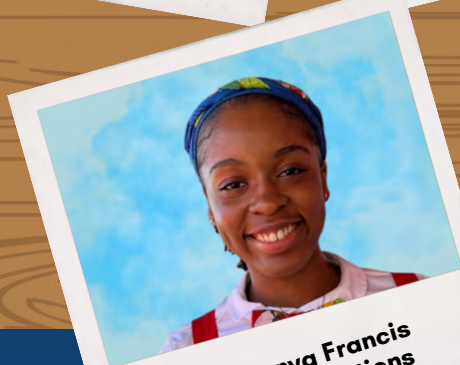
N'Koy Stoutt
Environmental Management



Alexia Penn
Strategy & Environment



Chemoia Hodge
Project Management



Shevonya Francis
Communications



Sharldon Joseph
Communications



Ajaalee Malone
Project Management



Retal Young
Project Management



Marcusgavy Maturine
Programme Strategy



Leah Smith
Environmental Management



Tyrese Augustine
Project Management



Jenena Lloyd
Finance

GET THE SKILLS AND KNOW HOW TO BID IN THE 21ST CENTURY

ATTEND AN RDA WORKSHOP

By Colene A. Penn

Are you a contractor, consultant or vendor seeking to network with colleagues while gaining insights and industry knowledge to develop and submit a winning tender? Well don't miss out on the next opportunity to attend an RDA workshop.



Improving contractors and suppliers' capacity to effectively respond to bidding opportunities was the centre focus when the RDA held its 2023 Procurement Workshops on Virgin Gorda and Tortola.

A total of 28 contractors and suppliers received clear instruction on the bidding process and a new topic, the Grievance Redress System (GRS) was introduced.

The RDA's Director of Procurement Mr. John Primo led the one-day session on 8 February, 2023 at Village Café & Restaurant, Virgin Gorda and again on 16th March, 2023 at Veronica's House of Commerce in Long Bush, Tortola.

Featured topics included 'Compiling a Winning Tender', 'Tips for Bidding', 'Responding to the Evaluation Criteria' and 'Grounds for Automatic Disqualification'.

Community Liaison Officer Ms. April Glasgow highlighted the GRS as a system that not only provides community members with formal procedures to lodge complaints, but also to protect contractors through a process that encourages transparency and accountability.

Workshop participants stated that the material was clearly presented, informative, and the concepts learned will help them better prepare for tenders.

The RDA Procurement Workshops provide the forum where contractors and their competitors can find common ground to ask relevant questions, share their experiences, and receive real time feedback on any burning issues, procurement or construction related.

To date, the RDA has conducted a total of 15 workshops Territory-wide and trained 156 contractors.

The RDA, through its mandate of capacity building, aims to enhance the capabilities, skills, and knowledge of our contractors in order to promote excellence, efficiency, and compliance with the requirements of the tender process.

This mandate aims to ensure that local contractors have the necessary competencies to deliver high-quality goods and services, adhere to ethical and legal standards, and foster beneficial partnerships or joint venture arrangements with other contractors so that they will be able to compete successfully with regional and international firms on larger and more complex contracts.



GOOD GOVERNANCE PROCESS

RDA PROCUREMENT PROCESSES – GOLD STANDARD

By John Primo

The RDA's procurement is normally done in accordance with the Agency's Procurement Policy and General Procurement Procedures, 2018 (The Handbook). The Agency has a strong and clear policy which supports the RDA in ensuring value for money and in attracting funding and investment to support the British Virgin Islands (BVI) to build back Stronger, Smarter, Greener and Better.

There is a real opportunity to shape and structure each procurement process to deliver social and economic benefit, and in doing so, grow a Stronger BVI. There are a number of mechanisms that the RDA will use to achieve this:

1. CONTRACTING THRESHOLDS

The contracting thresholds have been structured to expedite the procurement process without compromising fair competition. This is done to allow for small contracts (up to US\$70,000) to be tendered in a matter of days, if required. Larger contracts (up to US\$2,000,000) will be advertised widely and subsequently tendered from the Contractor Registration Classification System that is designed to favour BVI businesses. For contracts over US\$2,000,000, which is the threshold for international tenders, there is a requirement for the contractor to provide a minimum of 1% of the contract value for capacity building. This will be achieved through but not limited to, apprenticeship schemes, training, and education.

2. LOCAL CONTENT CLAUSE

In all of these cases, the use of technical evaluation criteria and the "local content" clause will be used, as appropriate, to shape the tender process to ensure the maximum number of BVI people and firms benefit from RDA contracts. Local content may take into consideration, but not be limited to, elements such as use of local subcontractors and employees, and purchases of locally sourced goods and services.

3. BUILDING LOCAL COMPETENCE

The RDA intends to use the procurement process to support government to build a professional construction industry that is capable of competing at the highest international level. This will be done through managing the scale, size, and complexity of contracts over time, building local competence and labour, and only using international expertise where required. Joint ventures and partnerships, both local and between international and local businesses, will be encouraged and used to increase the participation of BVI businesses. The use of the technical and commercial evaluation process will be used to strengthen the level of 'local content'.

4. TENDER EVALUATION CRITERIA

The tender evaluation criteria and procurement strategy will be explicit in the business case process, where the merits of the commercial and financial value will be analyzed at length to ensure there is the appropriate economic and social benefit from the procurement processes.

The RDA procurement process will be guided by the handbook and operationalized through the use of standard procurement templates and forms that will be developed by the RDA. These will evolve and change in complexity in line with the capacity development of the local construction industry and local expertise in allied services.

GREEN RECOVERY

THE RDA BUILDS BACK BETTER, AND GREENER!

By Clive Petrovic



Building back smarter, stronger, better, and greener. Sounds good, but what does building back greener mean? Green initiatives have become a cliché. Almost like a modern buzzword that advertisers love to use. But what is it actually, and how does the RDA work towards a greener commitment?

When thinking greener, most people think of the natural environment. The flowers, trees, and birds. Of course, there is more to it. Humans are also part of the environment. Projects have an impact on families and communities just as much as they affect the birds and the bees.

The RDA is committed to developing the infrastructure of the Territory, but in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the natural world and the human environment. So, what are some examples of building back greener?

Any building project in the BVI must obtain the permission of the Town & Country Planning Department. This applies to government, as well as private projects. The reason is to make sure projects produce the maximum benefit to society while minimizing the negatives. An orderly growth and development process is best for everyone.

Building greener usually begins with a site assessment. Such an assessment is really a risk analysis of what potential harm can be caused by construction. Then, an evaluation determines what kinds of mitigation will serve the public interest.

On many projects that begins with looking at what is currently there. Is there a steep slope that is unstable and prone to erosion? Are there rare plants and animals that will be displaced? Will the local fisheries be affected? Are there cultural artifacts and historical features that must be protected for future generations?

Building back greener must also think about disrupting human lives. Will roads and traffic be impacted? What about access to social services such as police and fire protection? Will electricity, water and utilities be disrupted by the project?

These are all questions that must be answered before construction starts. Risks must be identified, and mitigation proposed. So, what kind of mitigation might make a project greener?



On the natural environment side, recommendations often include erosion control. Usually silt fences at the lowest elevation to capture soil that may be dislodged during site work. The goal is to keep the soil on the site and not let it wash into a ghut or the sea where it can pollute coral reefs and damage fisheries.

Sometimes rare plants are found that are worth keeping. Solutions may include changing the development design to avoid damage, or perhaps relocating plants to a safer site. The exact recommendation depends on the specific circumstances. The goal is always the same. Minimize the footprint of the development and find ways to save as much habitat as possible.

For humans, that greener may include design of modern sewage treatment that prevents discharge of waste to the environment and reuses it for landscaping or non-potable functions. It can also include the installation of solar panels to make the project more energy independent. Most of all, greener involves innovative design where buildings take advantage of natural light and breeze and use energy saving technology.



RDA COLLABORATIONS

RDA + LEAD MINISTRY

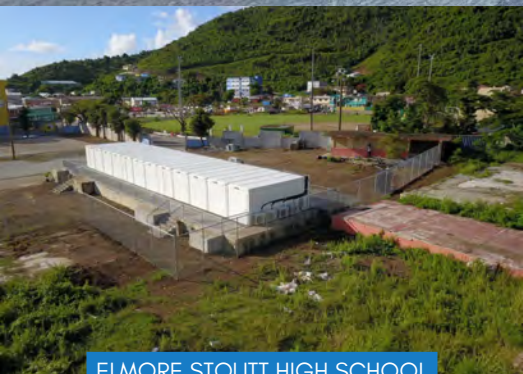


EDUCATION

RDA + MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS



ELMORE STOUTT HIGH SCHOOL



ELMORE STOUTT HIGH SCHOOL
MUSIC CLASSROOMS



BREGADO FLAX JUNIOR SCHOOL



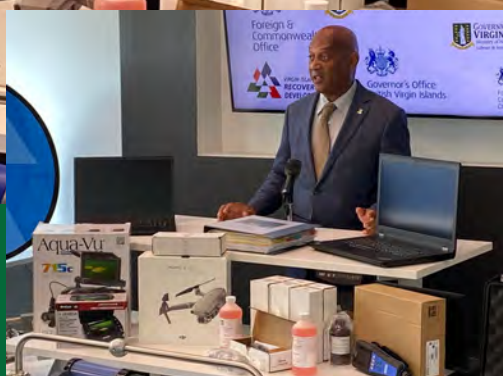
BREGADO FLAX EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- ESHS Demolition
- ESHS Temporary Classrooms

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

RDA + MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE CHANGE



GOOD GOVERNANCE

RDA + DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



THEODOPH FAULKNER ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



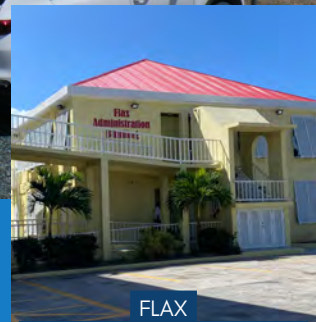
ALBERT H. CHINNERY
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



JOHN E. GEORGE, SR. MBE
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



VANTERPOOL
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING



FLAX
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

PRIDE & CULTURE IDENTITY

RDA + MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS



ANEGADA PLAYGROUND



ANTHONIE JEFFERY CAINES SPORTS ARENA



A.O. SHIRLEY RECREATIONAL GROUND



ANEGADA BASKETBALL COURT

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Anthonie Jeffery Caines Sports Arena

RENEWABLE ENERGY

RDA + FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



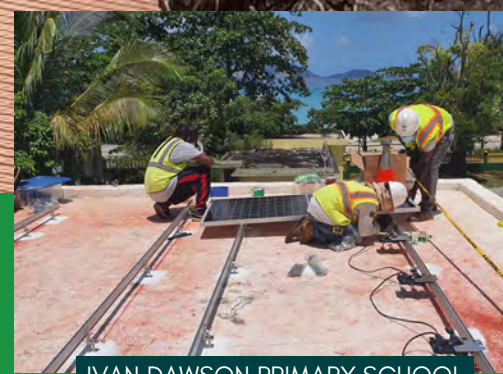
LEONORA DELVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL



FRANCIS LETTSOME PRIMARY SCHOOL



JOST VAN DYKE CLINIC



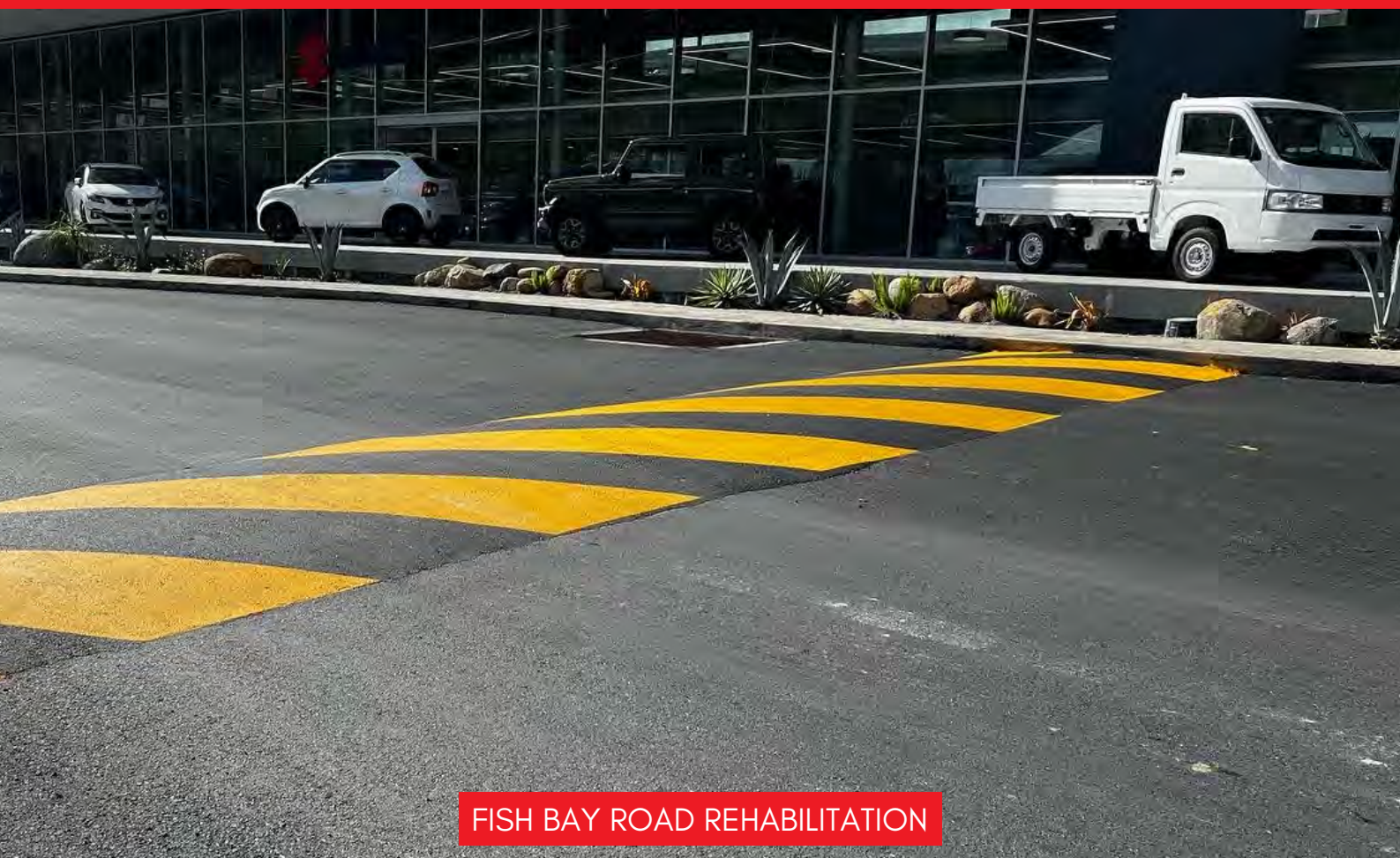
IVAN DAWSON PRIMARY SCHOOL

OTHER ACTIVITIES

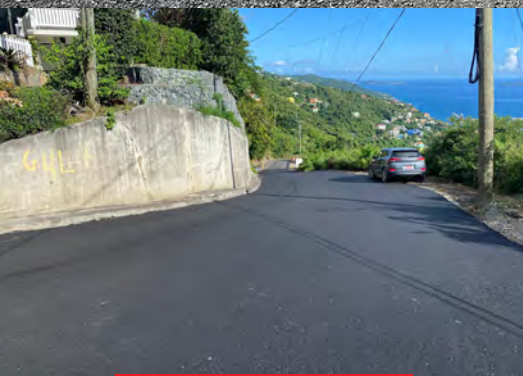
- ENIS ADAMS PRIMARY SCHOOL

ROADS

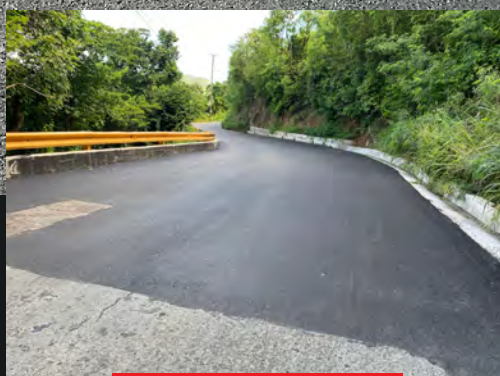
RDA + MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND WORKS



FISH BAY ROAD REHABILITATION



GREAT MOUNTAIN ROAD



HOPE HILL SABBATH HILL



BALLAST BAY ROAD

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- LOWER FORT HILL ROAD
- LONG TRENCH ROAD
- LOWER GREAT MOUNTAIN ROAD
- ASPHALTIC WORKS ON ALL REHABILITATION

SEAPORTS

RDA + MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND WORKS



SECURITY AND SAFETY FOR ALL

RDA + DEPUTY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE



ROAD TOWN POLICE STATION



ESTATE HOUSE #1



VIRGIN GORDA POLICE STATION

TOURISM

RDA + PREMIER'S OFFICE



THE BATHS - VIRGIN GORDA



WATER & SEWERAGE

RDA + MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



CARROT BAY RESERVOIRS



LONG BUSH RESERVOIR



ZION HILL RESERVOIR

RDA **STAKEHOLDER** **ENGAGEMENT**

CURRENT HAPPENINGS



**Meeting with Department of Agriculture:
Agriculture and Fisheries Complex**



**First District Community Meeting:
West End Ferry Terminal**



**Meeting with Immigration Department:
Immigration Detention Centre**



**Meeting with Trellis Bay Stakeholders:
Trellis Bay Welcome Centre**

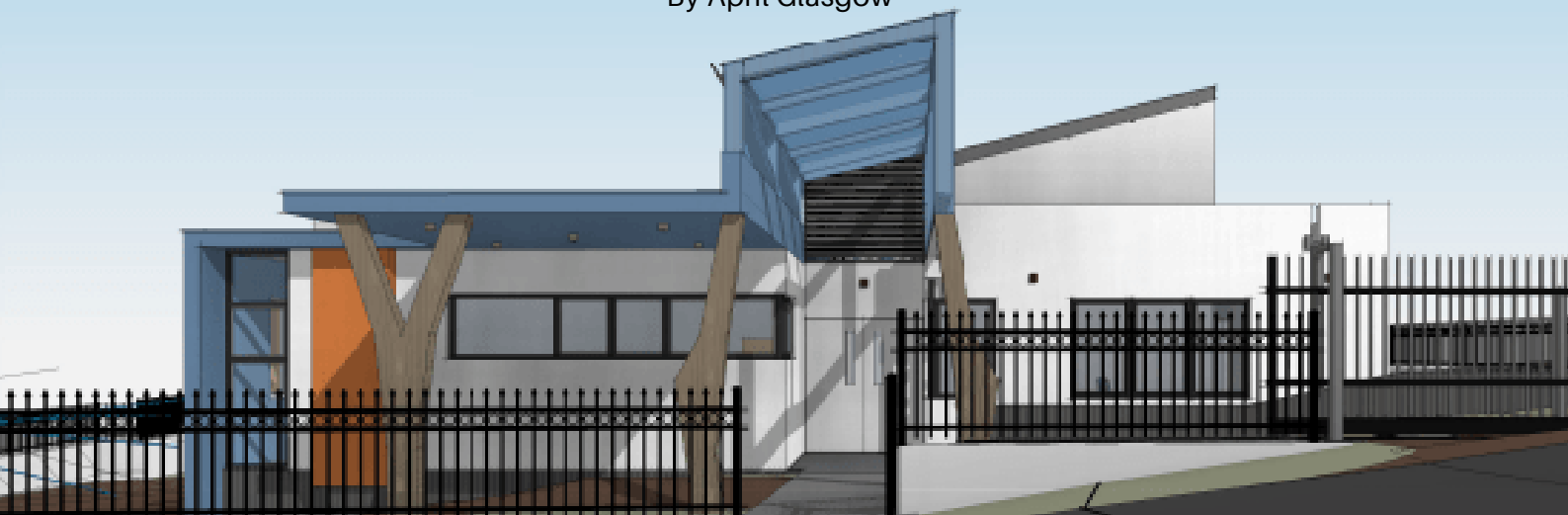


**WHAT'S
NEXT?**

A LOOK AHEAD

PLANNING AND PROCUREMENT PROCESSES COMPLETED FOR ESLYN HENLEY RICHIEZ LEARNING CENTRE

By April Glasgow



The Eshlyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre is a specialist facility that caters to the requirements of special needs children. This new facility is set to be relocated to the existing site of the Magistrate's Court and will be constructed to meet the learning needs of approximately thirty (30) children requiring specialist support at varying levels.

Design requirements for the project include a building designed in accordance with internationally disabled accessibility standards such as those presented by the International Commission for Technology and Accessibility and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The building is envisioned to be disaster resilient and will be constructed with durable materials which are easily maintained, appropriate for the intended use, in harmony with the local environment and easily replaceable. The building specifications include the integration of solar power for supplemental and backup power.

The Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (RDA), on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands, signed a contract for the construction of the new Eshlyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre (EHRLC) at the contract signing and groundbreaking ceremony on 25 August, 2023.

The scope of the project includes the construction of the following facilities:

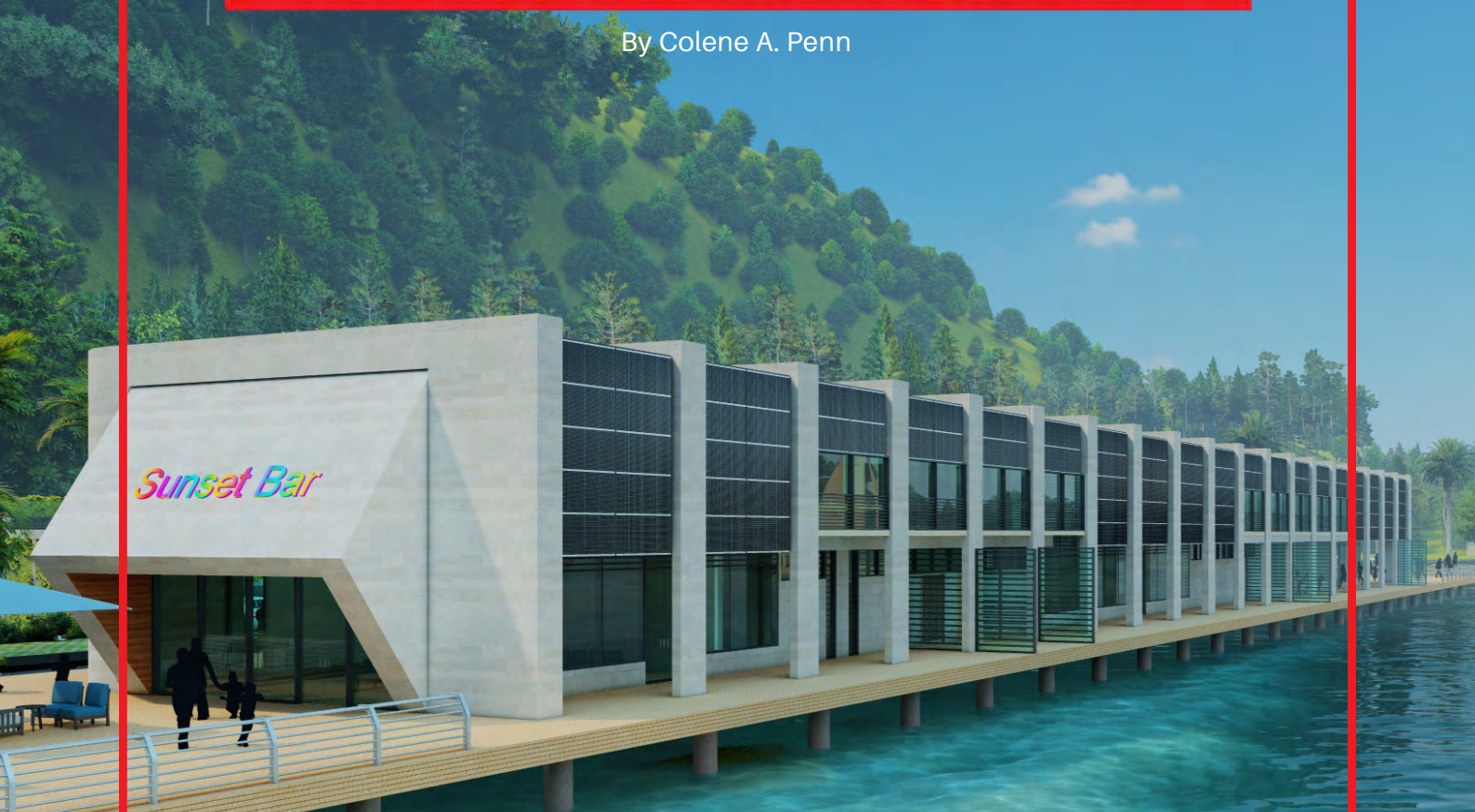
- Entry/Reception Area
- Four (4) basic classrooms of which two (2) provide access to exterior learning spaces.
- One Media Room/Library
- Up to twelve (12) students per classroom
- Multi-Purpose Room
- Principal's Office & 12-person staff room
- Nurse's Base & Medical Treatment Room
- Toilets & Personal Care facilities (male & female toilets, showers and changing tables)
- Multiple storage areas including medical, general, janitorial & secured storage
- Sensory & Therapy Rooms
- Hygiene and Withdrawal Rooms
- Playground and greenspace
- Medical Personnel/wheelchair accessibility throughout



THE REBUILD

WEST END FERRY TERMINAL

By Colene A. Penn



Nine firms have once again submitted bids to participate in the pre-qualification process for the construction of the new West End Ferry Terminal, this time, by the 31st August, 2023 deadline.

Although similar in number, a different composition of firms participated in this pre-qualification business opportunity. These submissions will now be evaluated by a panel of evaluators to arrive at a short list of firms to be invited to bid on the construction works.

Previously, the RDA received nine submissions on 9th June for the prequalification of contractors for the construction phase of the terminal. However, none of the contractors met the requirements for prequalification.

The RDA under the direction of the Premier's Office, will manage the design and construction of a new, expanded terminal, in partnership with key stakeholders to include the BVI Ports Authority, Immigration Department, the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, H.M. Customs, the BVI Tourist Board, ferry operators and taxi drivers.

The redevelopment will create a modern, technologically driven entry port and a secure border point designed to process 200 passengers per hour, or 200,000 passengers per year. It will provide a fast and efficient service with separate handling for private yachts, charter yachts and water taxis from ferry passengers.



The proposed 12,000 square foot facility will double the size of the previous facility, and have the capacity to process more passengers, provide berthing for multiple ferries and private yachts, and parking for vehicles. The facility will be built from sustainable materials and will incorporate technologies to offer greater efficiency for businesses and passengers.



On August 29, RDA Project Manager, Sergio Dantas led a presentation to the District One Community Meeting on the West End Ferry Terminal highlighting the project progress. The meeting was hosted by Representative for the First District, Dr. the Honourable Karl Dawson.

The redevelopment of the West End Ferry Terminal will facilitate improvement to BVI's tourism offerings and local commerce. It will also create jobs and a positive first impression for visitors.

The West End Ferry Terminal was the busiest seaport in the Virgin Islands prior to the 2017 hurricanes of which 40% of all arrivals into the Territory were processed through West End.



RDA

**LEARNING
AND RESOURCES**



**VIRGIN ISLANDS
RECOVERY AND
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**



2023



**WINNING
IN CONSTRUCTION**

TIPS ON PREPARING A WINNING TENDER

www.bvirecovery.com



**WINNING
IN CONSTRUCTION**

TIPS ON PREPARING A WINNING TENDER

E-BOOK

DOWNLOAD NOW

