



Press Release

TABLE SETTING COMPETITION RENAMED IN HONOUR OF FOUNDER

Road Town, Tortola, November 18, 2009 – Beginning in 2010 the annual Table Setting Competition will be renamed in honour of its founder, as the Janice Nibbs-Blyden Table Setting Competition. Acting Director of the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board, Hadassah Ward, made the announcement on Sunday during Virgin Gorda's 2nd Table Setting Competition.

Chairman of the BVI Tourist Board, Myron Walwyn, expressed the importance of the Board's recognition of Mrs Nibbs-Blyden's contribution. "Over the year's we have had many community volunteers that have given of their time and expertise to develop our youth in the Virgin Islands. It is important to acknowledge such contributions. By having the competition named in Mrs Nibbs-Blyden's honour we hope her spirit of excellence will forever be evoked in the competition, its participants and their later involvement in our tourism industry."

Ward echoed the Chairman's sentiment saying, "It is important to acknowledge the work of Mrs Nibbs-Blyden who saw the need to expose young BVI Islanders and residents to an industry where they can make a contribution while earning a skill that can develop into a fulfilling career."

In response to the tribute, Mrs Nibbs-Blyden said, "It is a great honour that I did not expect. Years ago I did not create this competition expecting to receive anything like this. This is not just for me, but I accept this honour as recognition of the work of many other persons that assisted in the growth and development of this competition."



She went on to explain how the competition was conceived. "I created the competition through the Girl's Brigade as their Training Officer as an opportunity for us to reach into the community to more young people." In recalling the contributions of other community members, she highlighted persons such as Adorothy Turnbull that helped prepare the guidelines for the table-setting contest, the BVI Tourist Board's, Jamila Vanterpool that encouraged the creation of standard attire for participants, as well as Augustine Mark, who added to the expansion of the competition to complete meal servicing. "I had many others who helped me to get to the level that we are today. They are all proud that what we started is continuing and at such a great standard." Mrs Nibbs-Blyden concluded.

Mrs Nibbs-Blyden is currently the Deputy Chief Librarian with the Territory's Library Services. She started in the Public Service in 1971 and has been a part of the Girls Brigades since in her youth. She is presently still serving as their Training Officer. In 1998 she created the competition to present a service training opportunity for youth in the Territory. It was her vision to help young people in the Territory develop a skill and gain insight into the hospitality sector, one of the largest contributor to the Territory's economy. It is anticipated that the competition will soon have participation from Anegada and Jost Van Dyke.

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Note to Editors:

Caption for attached photograph – J. Nibbs-Blyden: On Sunday Acting Director of the BVI Tourist Board, Hadassah Ward announced the renaming of the annual Table Setting Competition in honour of its founder to the Janice Nibbs-Blyden Table Setting Contest. (photo courtesy BVITB/M. Lettsome)