



British Virgin Islands Kenisha Frett

"Imagine you are the Minister of Tourism for your island. What would you do, and what projects could you create, to help bring locals and tourists closer together?"

The British Virgin Islands, also known as Nature's Little Secret, are located in the Caribbean. This tropical paradise is made up of a group of islands with cooling trade winds that promote weather that is perfect for sailing events. This causes the British Virgin Islands to be ranked as the "sailing capital of the world". Because of this, tourists from different countries visit our shore in great numbers, making tourism one of our main industries. As the Minister of Tourism, however, I would like to see the tourists and locals interact more.

There are many things that I would introduce to help achieve this. First, I would do cultural programs, where the locals and tourists can display their traditions. The locals and tourists can cook their traditional foods, watch the dances by the Heritage dancers, and hear songs by the Lashing Dogs, one of our Fungi bands, and much more. There will be foods like saltfish and dumplings, pigtail and sugar apple, fungi and fish, pea soup and much more. The Heritage dancers will amaze the crowd with their dances and the Lashing Dogs will top it off with some of their smashing hits. This way, they will both get to learn about each other's traditions and a little bit more about the British Virgin Islands.



Presently in the British Virgin Islands, not much has been done to preserve our historical sites. As the Minister of Tourism, I will make sure that all of our historical sites are preserved. Here the locals will put on shows that will teach the tourists about our interesting places. Our history is what makes us who we are. When the tourists learn of our history, of the struggle to gain freedom from slavery and to see how far we have come in our development, they will be better able to understand and appreciate us as a people and not just come to enjoy the sun, sea and sand—things that they can see elsewhere.

Tourism is a very important aspect of our economy. Without it, we would not be able to enjoy many of the services, which the government provides. However, we need to provide something that the visitor will remember for the rest of his life. My plans for the tourism industry will not only ensure a lasting memory but will also help to bring locals and tourists closer together—a step in the right direction.

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