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PRESS RELEASE

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World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 – Unleashing the Potential of Technology within YOU through Education

17 May 2024 – World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD) is celebrated on 17 May annually since its establishment in 1969. The observance of WTISD aims to raise awareness about the benefits that internet and other communication technologies can bring to societies, as well as ways to bridge the digital divide. This year, the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is excited to launch the celebration under the theme: “Unleashing the Potential of Technology within YOU through Education.”

The Commission’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr Guy Lester Malone, said, “Telecommunications has revolutionised not only how we communicate but also how we work, conduct business, seek information and learn. There are remarkable tools available for educators who are responsible for training future generations. Additionally, the Commission is committed to providing opportunities for the public to be educated on telecommunications, thereby strengthening the development of the Virgin Islands.”

This year’s theme centres on an App Development course funded by the Commission. Residents of the Virgin Islands will have the opportunity to enroll in this course at the Hamilton Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC) in Fall 2024!

This course aims to provide participants with the necessary skills to develop their own mobile apps. Students will acquire fundamental computer programming knowledge and learn how to write code to create functional apps that solve real-world problems.

“In today’s digital age, the Commission in collaboration with HLSCC acknowledges the increasing importance of digital literacy. This course goes beyond consuming digital content; it empowers

participants to become creative and innovative producers of computer programmes and mobile apps. By equipping young people and professionals with app development skills, the Commission is preparing them to thrive in the ever-evolving digital economy and the 21st century job market,” said HLSCC’s Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Ronald Burnton.

This course represents the Commission’s commitment to integrating information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the public, aiming to enhance the utilization of ICT for the betterment and productivity of the VI

The Commission’s Office Supervisor and the Event’s Organiser, Ms. Johanna Rhymer stated, “this year, we focused on integrating app development as a means of offering persons in the community more opportunities to enhance their skills, professions, daily lives or businesses. Programmes should be designed to enhance technology and computer skills amongst the population, and it is our duty to ensure that the opportunities of ICT are accessible. Participants are asked to cover a small registration fee while the Commission will cover the cost of the course. Upon completing the class, students will be given the opportunity to develop a mobile app aimed at promoting and enhancing community relations between the public and the Commission.”

Note to Editors:

1. The Commission is the statutory body responsible for regulating the telecommunications sector of the Virgin Islands, protecting the interests of users of telecommunications services, ensuring fair competition among operators of telecommunications networks and providers of telecommunications services.