



CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

16th January, 2019

23rd January, 2019

His Excellency the Governor Augustus J. U. Jaspert chaired the Meetings held on 16th and 23rd January, 2019 at the Peebles Hospital, Conference Room P12.

All Members were present.

Cabinet Meeting – 16th January, 2019

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and received the evaluation presentation on the implementation of the Virgin Islands Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy over the period 2014–2018; received and endorsed the Virgin Islands CDM Strategic Framework for the period 2019-2025 that includes the suggested outcomes and outputs to be achieved; decided that the Governor's Office instruct the Department of Disaster Management to proceed with the development of the full version of the CDM Strategy and performance monitoring plan and requested that the following be included in the CDM strategy:
 - (i) enhanced resilience in the insurance provision with work to be taken forward by the Department of Disaster Management and the Ministry of Finance, including a mandatory requirement for yachts and vessels;
 - (ii) a link to the Recovery to the Development Plan; and
 - (iii) collaboration with the Recovery Development Agency on the energy resilience and sustainability of the electricity and telecommunication industries, investment in renewable energy and placement of underground cables.
2. Noted the successes and challenges from the administering of the Comprehensive Disaster Management audit tool and decided that the Department of Disaster Management collaborate with government ministries and key stakeholders to use the results from this Audit to guide the development of

the 2019 - 2025 Virgin Islands Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework.

3. Approved that Mrs. Enelle Constantia Smith be awarded a grant of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) in recognition of her 100th birthday.
4. Noted that a Memorandum of Understanding between the National University of Singapore (acting through the School of Computing) and the Government of the Virgin Islands was signed in Singapore on 12th November, 2018 in the presence of the Acting Permanent Secretary in the Premier's Office Ms. Dawn Smith; President of the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College Mrs. Judith Vanterpool and Deputy Managing Director (Corporate Services) of the Financial Services Commission Mrs. Jennifer Potter-Questelles. The Premier and Minister of Finance Dr. the Honourable D. Orlando Smith, OBE, witnessed the signing via e-conferencing, along with Interim Director for BVI Finance Mrs. Lorna Smith, OBE.
5. Decided:
 - a. to retroactively waive the tendering process and award a contract to BVI Dredging Development Limited and Ports & Marina Services, Ltd., who are the sole companies in the BVI that possess the requisite specialty expertise as follows:
 - i. BVI Dredging Development Limited in the amount of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to undertake works on the western side of the harbour; and
 - ii. Ports and Marina Services Ltd. in the amount of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to undertake works on the eastern side of the harbour.
 - b. that the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet/draft the contracts with both companies and that the works be conducted under the direct supervision of the Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer.
6. Noted the following short list of vendors who were invited to bid on providing pumping services for the Cane Garden Bay Sewerage System Maintenance Project: (i) Connect Enterprises Ltd.; (ii) Ricky's 24hr Trucking & Heavy Equipment Rental; (iii) Triple "L" Heavy Equipment; (iv) Denco Limited and (iv) K&K Heavy Equipment & Sewerage Disposal Service and accepted the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee and approved the awarding of a contract to K&K Heavy Equipment & Sewerage Disposal Services in the amount of nineteen thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars (\$19,920.00) per month, for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months, for the maintenance of the Cane Garden Bay Sewerage System. The Ministry of Communications and Works

would instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the contract expeditiously in order for the project to commence within the earliest possible timeframe.

7. Decided that the staff of the Department of Disaster Management be granted an honorarium totalling twenty-one thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$21,250.00 - total sum for all staff) for their exceptional performance and significant amount of overtime service provided following the August 2017 floods and the September 2017 hurricanes.
8. Agreed to waive the tender process to engage the services of sewerage truck companies to pump and dump sewage from pump stations throughout Road Town due to the urgent need that existed as a result of sewerage pump stations being damaged and made inoperable during the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017 and the most expedient procurement method at the time to remedy the situation; decided that payments totalling five hundred and thirteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$513,500.00) be paid to private sewerage truck haulers to cover the cost for the pumping and dumping of sewage from sewerage pump stations throughout Road Town as follows:
 - i. CONNECT ENTERPRISES LTD. for a sum of one hundred and sixty-two thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$162,700.00);
 - ii. RICKY'S 24-HR TRUCKING AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTALS for a sum of one hundred and nineteen thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$119,700.00);
 - iii. TRIPPLE "L" HEAVY EQUIPMENT for a sum of seventy-two thousand, four hundred dollars (\$72,400.00);
 - iv. DENCO LIMITED for a sum of eighty-nine thousand, one hundred dollars (\$89,100.00); and
 - v. K&K HEAVY EQUIPMENT & SEWERAGE DISPOSAL SERVICES for a sum of sixty-nine thousand, six hundred dollars (\$69,600.00).
9. Decided to retroactively waive the tender process, pursuant to regulation 170 (2) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2005 in an effort to regularise and approve the selection of Connect Enterprises Ltd. as the vendor to carry out the pumping of sewerage from sewerage pump stations in Cane Garden Bay in the amount of one hundred and ninety-one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$191,500) from December 2017 to December 2018 due to the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Ministry of Communications and Works (C&W), taking urgent action to minimise and prevent: (i) overflows, backups and surface run-offs of sewerage from existing stations in Cane Garden Bay; and (ii) contamination of the local ecosystem and water ways as a direct result of

prolonged exposure to raw sewerage in Cane Garden Bay both potentially posing associated health concerns or risk to the public and the environment.

10. Decided that the insurance coverage for the Central Administration Complex (CAC) be extended from 1st January, 2019 to 31st March 2019, while the tender process is being concluded; accepted Policies (Fire and Extended Perils) to cover the four storey building and the general third party liability submitted by Nagico Insurance Company Limited in the sum of seventy-one thousand three hundred thirty-four dollars (\$71,334) and agreed that supplementary funding in the aforementioned amount be included in the next Schedule of Additional Provision.
11. Reviewed and accepted the Land and Pier Development Review Report (August 2018) by KPMG; decided that the Report dated 31st July, 2017 prepared by Charterland Ltd., Chartered Surveyors be attached as an appendix to the KPMG Report; reviewed and accepted that the Summary Report dated 7th January, 2019 prepared by the Ministry of Communications and Works and decided that all three (3) reports be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.
12. Decided that the Government enters into a contract with Electronic Systems Software in the amount, not to exceed three hundred and fourteen thousand, four hundred and forty-three dollars and sixty-three cents (\$314,443.63) for the purchase of the tabulation hardware (scanners), software and e-poll books.
13. Accepted the variation order in the amount of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for Chemo's Construction to undertake additional works at Her Majesty's Customs Headquarters and decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the relevant contract documents for the configuration of Her Majesty's Customs Department Headquarters.
14. Decided to rescind Cabinet's decision of 20th December, 2017 and approved the amount of seventy-one thousand, nine hundred ninety-eight dollars and fifty-two cents (\$71,998.52) to Tess Truck and Equipment Sales and Services as a full and final payment.
15. Decided that two staff of the Department of Information Technology be granted an honorarium of \$500.00 each for their exceptional and significant amount of overtime service provided for the Territory's 2015 General Election.
16. Decided, in principle, to an advance of \$5.52M to the BVI Airport Authority (BVIAA) for the surfacing of the runway at the Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport to allow works to commence and be completed by 19th April, 2019 and decided that the advance of \$5.52M be repaid immediately from the BVIAA's insurance settlement.

17. Noted that the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) provided an update on the status of telecommunications services in the Virgin Islands as at October 2018, and that the report indicated the progress of two (2) of the four (4) licensed telecommunications service providers have made in their recovery efforts since their networks were severely damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017;
18. Approved the re-appointments of Mr. Sean Palmer and Mrs. Lucia Lettsume, as Members of the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation Board, for one (1) year effective 1st January, 2019 and 1st December, 2018, respectively.
19. Decided that the Peebles Hospital be renamed the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital in recognition of his pioneering efforts to improve healthcare for the residents of the Virgin Islands and that a Resolution be introduced by way of a motion for approval by Members at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly. Cabinet also agreed with the recommendation that the wing of the hospital campus, that is located on the original site, retain the name of Major Peebles.
20. Received and accepted the Family Support Network 2016 Annual Report and Audited Financial Report for 2015 and decided that the reports be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
21. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Virgin Islands Red Cross Act, 2018, which seeks to establish the Virgin Islands Red Cross as a corporate body with autonomous status, as a means, among other things, of granting the Branch recognition as a voluntary aid society auxiliary to the public authorities in the Virgin Islands and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient sitting.
22. Noted the Final Report on the Household Assistance Programme.
23. Received and accepted the British Virgin Islands Diabetes Association's Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for 2016 and decided that the reports be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
24. Decided to appoint Dr. Yvonne Renee Venzen, Mrs. Kishelle Blaize-Cameron and Mr. Romeo Frett as members of the BVI Health Services Authority Board pursuant to Section 5 of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004 for two (2) years effective 15th January, 2019.
25. Approved a number of Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 23rd January, 2019

Cabinet:

1. Decided that the Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act be amended to reinstate the original text of the Bill brought to the House of Assembly in respect of the requirement to demonstrate economic substance in respect to each relevant business activity in which companies participate and to correct typographical errors in the Act and that the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System Act, 2017 be amended to delay the obligation on newly incorporated BVI companies to immediately fulfill the reporting requirement in the Act in respect to the information required in respect of such newly incorporated companies and to correct typographical errors.
2. Decided to waive the tender process pursuant to section 170 (2) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2005 for the purchasing of asphalt from Tortola Paving Company Limited in the amount of one million, six hundred and three thousand, four hundred and forty dollars (\$1,603,440.00), which will be used to repair public roads throughout the Territory.
3. Waived the tender process associated with the procurement of approximately eleven thousand (11,000) tons of asphalt to repair damaged roads throughout the Territory of the Virgin Islands, pursuant to reg. 170(2) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2005, on the basis that there is only one (1) supplier on island and given the urgent need to rehabilitate public roadways which sustained damage since the August 2017 floods and passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and continue to be eroded by heavy vehicular traffic, rain and broken water lines; decided that a contract be awarded to Tortola Paving Company Ltd. for a sum not to exceed two million, six hundred thousand dollars (\$2,600,000.00); decided that Ministry of Communications and Works instruct the Attorney General to draft the relevant agreement and decided that the rehabilitation of public roadways also cover areas from the Greenland main road to the cemetery; the East End/Long Look Community Centre and its environs and the Fat Hog's Bay junction to King Road.
4. Decided that permission be granted to Mr. Isaac Fonseca to use the seabed for the creation of a small marina by dredging the seabed and installing a jetty directly in front of his property in the Sea Cows Bay Registration Section.
5. Noted that Mr. Trefor Grant resigned as Chairman of the British Virgin Islands Port Authority (BVIPA) effective 30th December, 2018; decided that Mr. Wendell M. Gaskin be appointed as Chairman for three (3) years effective 31st December, 2018, Mr. Ibrahim Tarabay (Member) for three (3) years effective 2nd January, 2019 and Ms. Patricia M. Romney (Member) for two (2) years effective 25th January, 2019 and noted that acting upon the Member's request, Mrs. Helene

Anne Lewis will be removed from the BVIPA at the expiration of her Member's appointment on 24th January, 2019.

6. Approved a number of Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

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1. Cabinet decisions will be published by the Cabinet Office following confirmation of the minutes.
2. Only a summary of the decisions will be published.
3. Cabinet discussions will not be disclosed.
4. Cabinet decisions of a sensitive nature, matters of national security, those where publication breaches regional or international conventions and those relating to personal privacy will not be disclosed.
5. Cabinet decisions will be published in the weekly issues of the Virgin Islands Official Gazette at www.eservices.gov.vg/gazette.
6. Cabinet decisions will be also available on bvi.gov.vg and on Twitter.