



CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS **7th and 8th May, 2019**

His Excellency the Governor Augustus J. U. Jaspert chaired the Special Cabinet Meeting on 7th May, 2019 and the Cabinet Meeting on 8th May, 2019. Both Meetings were held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present at both Meetings.

Special Cabinet Meeting – 7th May, 2019

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved an amendment to Section 16 sub clause 4 and 5 of the Immigration and Passport Act as outlined in the Bill entitled, Virgin Islands Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2019 to allow for the regularisation of migrant workers in the Territory; approved an amendment to Section 18 and 24 of the Principal Act, respectively, to allow for the regularisation process and to give the Minister responsible for Immigration discretionary powers to allow persons to land and remain in the Territory, who may not qualify under Section 23, and decided that there will be a sunset time period of 30th June, 2019 for this regularisation process.

Cabinet Meeting – 8th May, 2019

The Cabinet:

1. Considered and reviewed the Virgin Islands Disaster Management Bill, 2019 and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
2. Received an update on the benefits to be garnered from the implementation of Digital Transformation, and noted that the Digital Transformation strategy is a holistic strategy that covers both the Government and the Territory as a whole and that a suitable mechanism is being developed for partnering with the Recovery and Development Agency on projects under their remit that correspond to Digital Transformation.

3. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report for the supply of equipment and furniture for schools in the British Virgin Islands, which was approved by the Central Tenders Board (CTB), and accepted the recommendation of the CTB to award the following:
 - i. Massy Technologies Info Com (Antigua) Ltd., a contract to supply office equipment in the amount of two hundred, fifty seven thousand, four hundred fifty dollars (\$257,450.00); and
 - ii. Island Services (BVI) Ltd., a contract to supply furniture from eligible member countries of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in the amount of four hundred, eighteen thousand, three hundred seventy-eight dollars and ninety-eight cents (\$418,378.98), and a contract to supply furniture from non-eligible member countries of the CDB in the amount of one hundred, ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred forty-six dollars and fourteen cents (\$199,946.14).

4. Decided:
 - a. that the Memorandum of Agreement signed between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the National Bank of the Virgin Islands (NBVI), relating to the Housing Recovery Assistance Programme, be amended to reflect a reduced allocation of funding to be disbursed directly to Beneficiaries through the Bank to cover existing Social Housing (\$1,300,000) and General Grant commitments (\$5,550,000), as well as five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) to be applied towards low interest loans, for a total of seven million, three hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$7,350,000);
 - b. that five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) be withdrawn from NBVI and managed directly by the Ministry of Health and Social Development to be applied towards administrative expenses and that the balance of funds be disbursed to contractors and suppliers as directed by the Ministry of Health and Social Development distributed as follows: Social Housing -\$1.7M and General Grants - \$5M; and
 - c. that the Housing Recovery Programme Guidelines be amended to allow for the award of partial grants that would be sufficient to make beneficiaries' homes watertight, together with essential electrical and plumbing installation works.

5. Decided to appoint Dr. Joel Stevens as a Member of the BVI Health Services Authority Board for a period of two years with effect from 15th May, 2019, pursuant to Section 5 (5) of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004 and as Chairman, subject to the approval of the House of Assembly.
6. Approved a number of Non-Belongers Land Holding Licences.

Further information on these matters will be provided by the Premier and Ministers in due course.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 16th May, 2019.

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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.