
CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS **15th and 23rd May, 2019**

His Excellency the Governor Augustus J. U. Jaspert chaired the Cabinet Meetings held on 15th and 23rd May, 2019 at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present at the Meeting of 15th May, with the exception of the Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration Hon. Vincent Wheatley, who was overseas on official business.

All Members were present at the Meeting of 23rd May, with the exception of the Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities Hon. Kye Rymer and Minister for Health and Social Development Hon. Carvin Malone, who were overseas on private business.

Cabinet Meeting – 15th May, 2019

The Cabinet:

1. Received an update and noted:
 - a. that the UK provided substantial humanitarian support in the immediate aftermath of the disasters of 2017 with over \$80M going to support the affected Overseas Territories (Anguilla, Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands) and that UK funding has delivered approximately £14.6M of support to the Government of the Virgin Islands' early recovery projects;
 - b. that the UK Government is committed to providing further support for the longer recovery in the form of a UK loan guarantee of up to £300M and that the UK is currently supporting the long-term recovery and development effort through a £10M grant and that the effectiveness of this support to date will be reviewed in May to June 2019; and
 - c. that the UK (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and the Ministry of Finance each has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Recovery Development Agency (RDA) to support the RDA's operational costs.

2. Approved the appointments of the following persons to the BVI Ports Authority Board effective 16th May, 2019: Mr. Nathaniel Isaac (Chairman) and Members Ms. Roxane Sylvester, Mr. Vincent Wattley and Mrs. Patsy Lake for a period of three (3) years; Messrs. Keith Flax, Damien Lettsome and Mrs. Tamarie Wheatley-Hodge for a period of two (2) years. The *ex-officio* Members are Financial Secretary, Permanent Secretary/Premier's Office and the Managing Director, BVI Ports Authority.
3. Decided that the Government of the Virgin Islands enters into a lease agreement with Mr. Henry Harrigan for the rental of premises for temporary accommodation for the Department of Motor Vehicles, Virgin Gorda Branch.
4. Decided:
 - i. that, to assist in the ongoing reform of the Labour and Immigration Departments, and following an evaluation of received proposals, the formal tendering process be waived for the purchase of a new Border Management System (BMS) to replace the legacy (EnTrex) BMS, which would enhance the Territory's security capabilities, mitigate against the existing border threats, and bring the Territory's immigration and security services in line with international standards; and
 - ii. that the scoping requirements and negotiation for a contract be taken forward with Canada Bank Notes for the design and supply of the new BMS by the Premier's Office and Ministry of Finance, with the Immigration Department, in the anticipated amount of six million, four hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$6,440,000.00) payable in annual installments of one million, two hundred and eighty eight thousand dollars (\$1,288,000.00), over a period of five (5) years.
5. Considered and noted that Virgin Islands Search and Rescue (VISAR), an independent, volunteer-based lifeboat service organisation, funded mostly by charitable donations, has requested a donation of one pair of Customized Motor Vehicle Registration Plates bearing the identification mark 'VISAR', for the organisation's new Kia motor vehicle from the Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities (TWU) and that the Ministry of TWU will underwrite the Department of Motor Vehicles' cost price for the pair of plates.
6. Considered and approved the BVI Health Services Authority's Revenue and Expenditure Budget for the Financial Year 2018/2019 and decided that these documents be tabled at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
7. Cabinet received the report on the Actuarial Review of the National Health Insurance Plan.

8. Decided that the appointments of the following members of the British Virgin Islands Health Services Authority Board be revoked effective 16th May, 2019: Professor Joseph Federick, Ms. Alva McCall, Mr. Romeo Frett, Dr. Yvonne Renee Venzen, and Mrs. Kishelle Blaize-Cameron.

Cabinet Meeting – 23rd May, 2019

The Cabinet:

1. Received an update on office accommodation for the Public Service following the 2017 hurricanes and the urgent need to advance the renovation of the Central Administration Complex by the Recovery Development Agency to the scope agreed by Ministries to provide suitable accommodation for public officers.
2. Revoked the appointments of the members of H. Lavity Stoutt Board of Governors in accordance with the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College Act, 1990, Section 3(2).
3. Approved that the following persons be appointed to the Board of Immigration for a period of two (2) years with effect from 1st May, 2019: Mr. Glen Harrigan (Chairman) and Members Messrs. James Harris, Nathaniel Isaac and Elvin Grant; Ms. Roxanne Sylvester, Ms. Violet Gaul, Mrs. Lisa Penn-Lettsome, Ms. Rosalia Gardener and Chief Immigration Officer (*ex-officio* Member).
4. Approved the "One Thousand Jobs in One Thousand Days" initiative, which seeks to create private sector job opportunities for unemployed BVI Islanders/Belongers in the Territory and that an incentive be given to businesses who partner with the Government and sign-up to participate in the programme and decided:
 - a. to reimburse up to 10 percent of the annual salary, not exceeding three thousand dollars (\$3000), paid to the persons businesses hire after the first year of employment and that the incentive would be limited to the first 100 jobs, after which Cabinet would review the initiative; and
 - b. that businesses must register with the Premier's Office to qualify, prior to hiring a BVI Islander/Belonger under this initiative.
5. Approved the membership of the BVI Airports Authority (BVIAA) Board effective 24th May, 2019 as follows: Mr. Bevis Sylvester (Chairman) and Members, Messrs. Marlon Choucoute Sr. and Kelvin Hodge, and Mrs. Patsy Lake for a period of three (3) years and Messrs. Hipolito Diego Penn, Theodore Burke, Raul Sprauve, and Mrs. Judy-Ann Aldona Smith for a period of two (2) years. The *ex-officio* Members are Managing Director, BVIAA (Executive Director), Financial Secretary, Director of Tourism and Permanent Secretary/Premier's Office.

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.

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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.
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