



CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS **5th and 12th February, 2020**

His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 5th February, 2020, which was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Ralph T. O'Neal Administration Building.

All Members were present.

Cabinet Meeting – 5th February, 2020

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the 2019 General Elections Report and recommendations; decided that the Report be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting and:
 - a. agreed to the appointment of an Ad Hoc Elections Legislation Committee to review the recommendations and the Elections Act, which would be appointed by the Governor and nominated by the following:
 - i. Office of the Deputy Governor (official to be nominated by the Deputy Governor)
 - ii. Premier's Office (official to be nominated by the Permanent Secretary/Premier's Office)
 - iii. Two Members of the House of Assembly (one to be nominated by the Government and one by the Opposition)
 - iv. Attorney General's Chambers (official to be nominated by the Attorney General)
 - v. Office of the Supervisor of Elections (official to be nominated by the Supervisor of Elections)

- vi. Department of Information and Public Relations (official to be nominated by the Director of Communications)
 - vii. Civil Registry and Passport Office (official to be nominated by the Registrar General of the Civil Registry and Passport Office), and
 - viii. the Private Sector (representative to be nominated by the Attorney General, in consultation with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition).
- b. agreed that the Committee should submit its report within three (3) months from the date of its appointment.
2. Decided that Dr. B. Clarissa Layne be appointed as a Member of the Teaching Service Commission for a period of one (1) year with effect from 1st February, 2020 to 31st January, 2021.
 3. Decided that the Merchant Shipping Act, 2001 be amended and that the amended Bill, be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
 4. Decided that Mr. Vance Lewis be appointed as Commissioner and Chairman of the Board of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission and Mr. Vincent Wattley be appointed as Commissioner and Deputy Chairman for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1st February, 2020, respectively, subject to the approval of Resolutions by the House of Assembly.
 5. Noted the update on the activities of the BVI Ports Authority for the period March to December 2019.
 6. Decided that the Government of the Virgin Islands sign the agreement establishing the Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions at the upcoming CARICOM Heads of Government Meeting on 18th and 19th February, 2020 in Barbados.
 7. Decided that, consistent with Government's policy, permission be granted to Chantel Malone to acquire the freehold interest in Crown land for her outstanding achievements at the 2019 Pan American Games, where she won a Gold Medal in the Women's Long Jump event.
 8. Approved one Non-Belongers land holding licence application.

His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 12th February, 2020, which was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Ralph T. O'Neal Administration Building.

All Members were present.

Cabinet Meeting – 12th February, 2020

The Cabinet:

1. Decided that the Order made by the Cabinet on 5th July, 2018 and, gazetted on the said date, exempting Chinese nationals from the requirements of a visa be suspended until such time that the Minister responsible for Immigration declares that the 2019 Novel Coronavirus is contained.
2. Noted the Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Bill, 2020; decided on the repeal of Section 335 of the Criminal Code of the Virgin Islands, as of 30th June, 2013 to decriminalise gambling; decided that the Premier's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the Bill for its finalisation and submission to the Cabinet for consideration and subsequently be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly to ensure the input of the public.
3. Noted an update by the Premier on the progress made to ensure Good Governance in the conduct of public affairs over the past 11 months since assuming office and noted:

(a) that the Cabinet would consider the following legislation in 2020:

- i. Public Service Management;
- ii. Integrity in Public Life;
- iii. Whistleblower;
- iv. Contractor General;
- v. Code of Ethics;
- vi. Procurement; and
- vii. Asset Seizure and Forfeiture.

(b) that work continues on the following projects:

- i. Construction of the Halls of Justice; and
- ii. Upgrades to the Territory's Courts and Police Stations

4. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) Technical Sub-Committee, which was approved by the CTB and accepted the CTB's recommendation to award Sandwise Limited the contract for the Waste Collection and Restoration of the Cox Heath Debris Management Site in the amount of two hundred twenty-one thousand, four hundred and thirty dollars [\$221,430.00].
5. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) Technical Sub-committee, which was approved by the CTB and accepted the CTB's recommendation award Design BVI Limited *dba* Joma Projects, the contract for Procurement and Installation of Impact Resistant Windows, Doors and Frames in the Central Administration Complex in the amount not to exceed two million, three hundred, twenty-eight thousand, eighty-two dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$2,328,082.77).
6. Decided that permission be granted to Adina Hendricks, Janet Hendricks, Bernice Hendricks-Gomes and Rona Anita Brown *dba* "Sidney's Peace and Love Beach Bar and Restaurant" to utilise the seabed for the installation of 10 commercial moorings at Little Harbour, Jost Van Dyke, subject to a number of conditions.
7. Decided that permission be granted to Blunder Development Corporation Limited to use the seabed for the installation of 20 commercial moorings at Blunder Bay, North Sound, Virgin Gorda, subject to a number of conditions.
8. Decided that permission be granted to Ephraim Penn to lease the seabed for the installation of 15 commercial mooring buoys at Trellis Bay, Beef Island in accordance with the marine spatial plan to be developed, subject to a number of conditions.
9. Noted the status of the Next Generation (NG) 911 Emergency Call Handling Project/System, the 2019-2022 deliverables and that 60 BVI Officers were trained in 911 Call Handling Software.
10. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Act, 2020, which makes provision for the establishment of the Seized and Forfeited Assets Management Committee to manage certain property seized or restrained in connection with certain offences, coupled with the power to dispose of those properties, as well as to apply for destruction orders, and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.

11. Noted the agreement to commence the Halls of Justice Project, with the construction of the Magistrate's Court as the first phase and decided on an exchange of Crown land designated as the site for the construction of the new Eslyn Henley Richiez Learning Centre and the site for the construction of the Magistrate's Court in John's Hole, Tortola.

12. Approved the lease of Crown land for agricultural purposes.

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Guidelines:

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.