



CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS **30th April, 2019**

His Excellency the Governor Augustus J. U. Jaspert chaired the first half of the Cabinet Meeting on 30th April, 2019 and the Premier and Minister of Finance chaired the meeting to conclusion. The Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building

All Members were present, with the exception of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture Dr. the Honourable Natalio Wheatley, who was overseas on official business.

Cabinet Meeting – 30th April, 2019

The Cabinet:

1. Examined the Schedule of Reallocation Warrants approved for the year 2018 and decided that the report be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting, in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2004 ("the Act").
2. Decided that the Government of the Virgin Islands enter into an Agreement with online accommodation booking agent AirBnB for the collection of Hotel Accommodation Tax by AirBnB from properties in the Virgin Islands that use AirBnB to facilitate guest bookings at their properties and decided that the Minister of Finance declare the Inland Revenue Department as a department which may receive and process electronic records relative to the Hotel Accommodation (Taxation) Ordinance (Cap. 205) ("the Act").
3. Decided that the Supplementary Appropriation Bills (2014) and (2015) be introduced in the House of Assembly at its next convenient Sitting.
4. Considered and approved an amendment to Regulation 2 of the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System (Fees) Regulations, 2019 ("the Regulations") to provide clarification as to which entities are subject to the fees chargeable under the Regulations by replacing the words, "*legal and corporate entities*" with the words "*registered agents*" wherever they occur and decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft, as a matter of urgency, the amendment to the Regulations. Once finalised and signed by the

Minister of Finance, the Regulations would be gazetted and thereafter laid on the table of the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.

5. Decided to discontinue the Work Permit Waiver for Skilled Workers Programme, effective 30th April, 2019 and that a grace period of three (3) months following the effective date of discontinuance, which is to be no later than 15th July 2019, for employers in possession of previously issued valid Work Permit Waivers for Skilled Workers, to complete the processing of his/her prospective employees be instituted; and decided that persons wishing to import skilled workers should revert to the existing work permit processes with the Labour Department.
6. Decided that a Centenarian grant of five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) be awarded in recognition of the 100th birthday of a member of the community, who had made a valuable contribution to the development of the Territory.
7. Decided that the Hotel Aid Licence for Peter Island (2000) Limited be amended to add an additional list of items for duty free importation in accordance with the Hotel Aid Ordinance (CAP 290).
8. Approved a number of Non-Belongers Land Holding Licences.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 9th May, 2019.

###

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.