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## **CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT**

### **CABINET DECISIONS** **12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

His Excellency the Acting Governor Mr. David Archer, Jr. chaired the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 in the absence of Governor Augustus Jaspert, who was overseas on official business. The meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present at the Meeting.

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Approved the re-appointment of the following persons to the Public Assistance Appeal Board with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019: Mrs. Urma Creque (Chairman); Mr. Charles Benjamin; Mrs. Gretta de Castro; Mr. Wayne Hoyte and Mrs. Marva Titley-Smith.
2. Received the Mental Health Situational Analysis Report British Virgin Islands conducted by Public Health England and decided that a Plan of Action on Mental Health incorporating the main recommendations from the Situational Analysis be finalised and costed for Cabinet's consideration.
3. Decided that:
  - a. the Premier's Office would launch the "Back to the Sea" programme no later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 and establish a Referral Registration Programme for persons to register their interests to be trained in the marine industry;
  - b. the Government would subsidize training opportunities up to a total of \$500,000 for each financial year for BVIslanders/Belongers who enroll and complete certification courses in the area of marine related studies;
  - c. in an effort to empower the people of the BVI, the Premier's Office and the Ministry responsible for Labour shall ensure that BVIslanders/Belongers who are trained in the marine sector be given

first preference for employment by employers within the marine industry;

- d. the Premier's Office collaborate with the training services providers to enroll the first cohort of students at the next intake at the approved institutions; and
- e. the Premier's Office, in collaboration with the Virgin Islands Shipping Registry and other relevant authorities, will keep the Cabinet informed with respect to:
  - i. the number of persons registering their interests for training, those referred to the training providers and those enrolled in the various training courses;
  - ii. the cost of the courses for enrolled persons;
  - iii. the budgeted subsidy for the training and the level of subsidy Government is willing to provide; and
  - iv. the level of training the trainees require and the obligations of the parties, namely the Government, the trainees, the training institutions and employers, following acceptance into the training programme.

4. 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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**###**

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1. Cabinet decisions will be published by the Cabinet Office following confirmation of the minutes.
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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.
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