

CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

9th and 16th June, 2021

Cabinet Meeting – 9th June, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 9th June, 2021, which was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and considered the 2020 Annual Report for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and decided that it be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
2. Noted:
 - a. the first report of the agencies to update the Cabinet on the progress of the work done thus far in the implementation of a new visa handling process;
 - b. how the Border Management and e-Visa System (BMS) will benefit customers and the overall goal of the system; and
 - c. the next meeting of the agencies, which will be held in early June, will focus on the finalisation of the Memorandum of Understanding to clearly outline the parameters by which each agency will use or share data with the BMS; and that the discussion will also centre around the areas of responsibility and the best way forward to equipping these offices with the resources needed to ensure the success of the Border Management and e-Visa system.
3. Noted the outline of the work of the Sister Islands Programme Unit; the Protocol for Ministers/District Representatives and District Officers Interaction and the protocol for use of Sister Islands Appointed Vehicles.

4. Approved the re-opening of ports of entry: Sopher's Hole Dock, West End; Dog Hole Dock, Jost Van Dyke and St. Thomas Bay Dock, Virgin Gorda to receive fully vaccinated international travellers and crew members, only, by 17th June, 2021; decided that all requisite government and statutory bodies work together to establish the Anegada Seaport as an official port of entry, to receive fully vaccinated travellers and crew members, only; agreed and adjusted the entry protocols and portals accordingly to reflect the aforementioned decisions and noted:
 - a. that the Road Town seaport and Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport will continue to be the only ports of entry where vaccinated and non-vaccinated international travellers will be allowed to enter the Territory; and
 - b. that domestic travellers will remain unaffected in their ability to use all ports.
5. Decided, in principle, that the Stamps, Souvenir Sheet and First Day Cover (Olympics 2021) Order, 2021 be issued; noted that approval of the designs will be sought from Buckingham Palace, via the Royal Household Section in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, following Cabinet's approval; and decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare an Order relative to the Olympics 2021: stamps, souvenir sheet and first day cover.
6. Noted the proposed draft of the Architects and Engineers Registration Act, which is intended to regulate the practice of architecture and engineering in the Virgin Islands; decided that the Ministry of Transportation, Works and Utilities provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to review and vet the proposed Act, which was drafted in 2014; and noted that thereafter the Ministry will submit the Bill to the Cabinet for consideration and approval before being introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading.
7. Decided to appoint the following persons as members of the Allied Health Professionals Council for a period of three (3) years with effect from 7th June, 2021 in accordance with the Medical, Dental and Allied Health Practitioners Act, 2000, as amended (No. 23 of 2020):
 - i. Dr. Michelle Martin, Clinical Psychologist;
 - ii. Mr. Lemeal D. Clyne, Radiologic Technologist;
 - iii. Ms. Saungie Liburd, Medical Laboratory Scientist;
 - iv. Mrs. Kimisha Wheatley-Jeffers, Pharmacist; and
 - v. Dr. Calisa Cruickshank, Medical Doctor.

8. Decided:

- a. that effective 15th June, 2021, fully vaccinated persons traveling from overseas would require an RT-PCR test or approved rapid antigen test within five (5) days of arrival and provide satisfactory evidence of being fully vaccinated;
- b. that fully vaccinated travellers would no longer be subject to PCR testing upon arrival (day zero) or quarantine requirements unless so ordered by a Quarantine Officer as a result of entry screening;
- c. that effective 15th June, 2021, partially vaccinated persons travelling from overseas would require a PCR test within five (5) days of travel, provide satisfactory evidence of being partially vaccinated, and will be subject to a PCR test or rapid antigen upon arrival (day zero) and quarantined for a period of four (4) days;
- d. that the Gateway administrative fee shall be reduced to no more than thirty-five dollars (\$35) for fully vaccinated travellers;
- e. that flight and vessel crews who are fully vaccinated would no longer require bi-weekly screening testing but should self-monitor and report any symptoms of, or recent exposure to, COVID-19;
- f. that a fixed penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on summary conviction would be introduced for producing false documentation such as vaccination records, or COVID-19 test certificates; and
- g. that the Ministry of Health and Social Development instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the necessary amendments to the relevant legislation to give effect to the agreed policy changes.

9. Approved two Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 16th June, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 16th June, 2021, which was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and accepted the Annual Report of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force for the year ending 31st December, 2019; and decided that the report be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
2. Decided that pursuant to the Articles of Association of the National Bank of the Virgin Islands Limited (NBVI), and subject to the approval of the Financial Services Commission – the banking regulator, the appointment of Dr. Drexel Glasgow as Non-Executive Director to the membership of the Board of Directors of the National Bank of the Virgin Islands Limited be renewed for two (2) years with effect from 1st June, 2021 to 31st May, 2023.
3. Reviewed and accepted the evaluation report submitted by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) Technical Evaluation Sub-Committee, which was approved by the CTB on 19th May, 2021 and accepted the recommendation of the CTB to award Quality Construction Ltd. the contract for the 'Replacement of the Frenchman's Cay Bridge' in the amount of three hundred fifteen thousand, seven hundred fifty-three dollars and four cents (\$315,753.04).
4. Approved the Government of the Virgin Islands entering into an agreement with the Commonwealth Secretariat for the migration to the debt management software "Commonwealth Meridian" which is to commence on 1st July, 2021; noted that partial payment of the annual maintenance fee for the period July 2021 to June 2022 is in the sum of nine thousand pounds (£9,000) and decided:
 - a. that the Ministry of Finance make provisional funding in the 2022 budget cycle in the sum of eighteen thousand pounds (£18,000) to defray the cost of the annual maintenance fee for the period July 2022 to June 2023; and
 - b. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the draft agreement.

5. Reviewed and considered the Strategic Plan for North Coast Road Sea Defence Project and decided:
 - a. that the North Coast Sea Defence Project, being a project that is valued over one million dollars (\$1M) and is proposed to include fractioning of the works, be procured and implemented in accordance with Clause 4.4.3(2) of the approved Policy on Procurement in Emergency, Disasters, Pandemics and Catastrophic Situations; and
 - b. that North Coast Road Sea Defence Project should be implemented with a series of petty contracts and major contracts in accordance with the Project Procurement Plan of the Strategic Plan.

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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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