



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

### **CABINET DECISIONS** **26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

Her Excellency the Acting Governor Mrs. Rosalie Adams chaired the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 in the absence of the Governor Augustus Jaspert, who was overseas on annual leave. The Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present, with the exception of Attorney General Hon. Baba Aziz, who was overseas on annual leave. Solicitor General Mrs. JoAnn Roberts Williams attended as the acting Attorney General.

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Received the report on the Readiness Assessment for 2019; noted the programmes for which funding should be provided this year and decided that each Ministry be asked to prioritise the respective critical programmes and subsequently present to the Cabinet for funding consideration.
2. Approved:
  - a. the amendment of Schedule 3 of the Immigration and Passport Regulations, 2014 (S.I. No. 1 of 2014) to include the following amended fees: on the grant of a Certificate that a person belongs to the Virgin Islands – eight hundred dollars (\$800.00); on the grant of Certificates of Residence and Belonger Status – one thousand, five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) and on the grant of a Certificate that a person born outside of the Territory belongs to the Virgin Islands by virtue of Third Generation Descent – eight hundred dollars (\$800.00);

- b. decided that the fees would apply to the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2019 (S.I. No. 5 of 2019) only;
  - c. decided that the Immigration and Passport Regulations, 2014 be amended at Schedule 3 Part I to reflect the fees for the grant of a Certificate that a person born outside of the Territory belongs to the Virgin Islands by virtue of Third Generation Descent (grandparent) to be five hundred dollars (\$500.00) following the completion of the regularisation (fast-tracked) process; and
  - d. decided that Schedule 1 of the Immigration and Passport Regulations, 2014 be amended to include the application form for a certificate that a person belongs to the Virgin Islands, if born outside of the Territory to Belonger parents.
3. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Virgin Islands Trade Commission Act, 2019, which establishes the Virgin Islands Trade Commission to provide for its functions and powers as a framework for the growth and development of the trade and economic sectors and establish a Trade Commission Tribunal. The Act would be introduced in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
4. Approved the appointments of the following persons to the Planning Authority for a period of three years from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2019: Messrs. Charles Cooper (Chairman and Member), Edward Freeman, and Keith Malone; and for two years from 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2019: Messrs. Lucien Thomas and Clifton Thomas as members. The Chief Planner, Director of Public Works, Director of Disaster Management and the Chief Conservation and Fisheries Officer are *ex-officio* members.
5. Approved the appointments of the following persons as members to the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 pursuant to Section 3(3) of the Tourist Board Ordinance Cap. 280: Mrs. Kenisha Sprauve (Member and Chairman), Ms. Gloria Fahie, Mrs. Arleen Parsons, Mrs. Keshia Davis-Barnes, Mrs. Julia Dawson-Marshall and Ms. Sasha Shimora Hodge and Messrs. Dereck E. Marshall, Mr. Kelvin Christopher, Leroy Moses, John Samuel (HLSCC - Chairman), Bevis Sylvester (BVI Airports Authority - Chairman), Nathaniel Isaac (BVI Ports Authority - Chairman). Director of Tourism, Permanent Secretary/Premier's Office and the Financial Secretary are *ex-Officio* Members.
6. Approved a number of Non-Belongers land holding licences.

His Excellency the Governor Mr. Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. The Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Attorney General Hon. Baba Aziz, who was overseas on annual leave. Solicitor General Mrs. JoAnn Roberts Williams attended the meeting as the acting Attorney General.

### **Cabinet Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Approved that the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2019 Section 2(c) be amended to allow a person born outside of the Virgin Islands of a great grandparent, who belongs to the Virgin Islands, to be able to apply for Belonger Status as a fourth generation descendant and decided to amend Section 6(1) of the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2019 to state that "Section 2(a) and (b) and Section 3 of this Act shall cease to apply on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2019".
2. Decided to waive the tender process and awarded a contract to Midway Electronics, Inc. in the sum of four hundred and ninety-nine thousand, five hundred and ninety dollars (\$499,590.00) to restore network connectivity to all Government entities on the basis of Midway Electronics Inc.'s familiarity, demonstrated knowledge and experience with the Territory's technological infrastructure and the urgent need to restore the Government's network.
3. Decided that the BVI POST enters into an agreement with EMS Cooperative to provide express mail service worldwide.
4. Accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to forty-two (42) persons who, in accordance with section 16 (6) of the Immigration and Passport Act are the spouses of Belonger and granted Certificates of Belonger Status to 161 persons who met the requirements in accordance with sections 16 (3) and 16 (4) of the Immigration and Passport Act.
5. Granted permission to Peter Island (2000) Ltd. to obtain a licence to use the seabed for the installation of fifteen (15) commercial moorings at Great Harbour, Peter Island, subject to a number of conditions.
6. Accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Residence to one hundred and twenty-nine (129) persons, in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended) and accepted the recommendations for endorsements of ten (10) minors in accordance with Section 18 (2) of the Immigration and Passport Ordinance.

7. Decided that Mr. Kenneth Hodge be reappointed as a member and Deputy Chairman of the BVI Health Services Authority Board for a period of two years, with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 pursuant to Section 5 (3)(a) of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004.
8. 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.*

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 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](http://www.eservices.gov.vg/gazette).
6. Cabinet decisions will be also available on [bvi.gov.vg](http://bvi.gov.vg) and on Twitter.