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

### **CABINET DECISIONS** **18<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

His Excellency the Acting Governor Mr. David Archer, Jr. chaired the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in the absence of 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.

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Noted that Public Service Week will be held from 27<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2019, under the theme **“One Team: Going Green for Public Service Week 2019”**. The theme was submitted by Harriet Cameron of the Department of Human Resources.
2. Decided on the appointment of members to the Maritime Advisory Board in accordance with Section 454 and Schedule 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2004, as follows:
  - i. Permanent Secretary/Premier's Office or his designate – Chairman, for a period of three (3) years;
  - ii. Messrs. John Samuel and Algernon Chalwell, for a period of two (2) years;
  - iii. Mr. Yohan Henry, BVI Bar Association; Ms. Janet Oliver, BVI Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Association and Ms. Denise Cline, BVI Association of Registered Agents, for a period of one (1) year;
  - iv. *Ex-officio* members: Director of Virgin Islands Shipping Registry, Registrar of Shipping, Commissioner of Customs, Managing Director of BVI Ports Authority and Permanent Secretary/Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration.

3. Reviewed and accepted the 2016 Auditor General's Report and the Annual Financial Statements and decided that the documents be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
4. Decided that, subject to the approval of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the following coins be minted by Pobjoy Mint Ltd, in accordance with the five (5) year agreement between Pobjoy Mint Ltd. and the Government of the Virgin Islands depicting:
  - i. Flamingo
  - ii. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall
  - iii. 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mayflower Sailing
5. Considered and approved the Environmental Protection and Tourism Improvement Fund Regulations, 2019 that will govern the distribution of fees collected under the Environmental Levy, reporting of such distribution and the manner in which distributed funds are spent.
6. Decided to waive the tender process, to take effect from April 2019, to provide legal services in the case BVIHCV2019/0087 Mark Vanterpool v Julian Willock (Speaker of the House); agreed that the Government of the Virgin Islands enter into a contract with Veritas Law to provide legal consultation and representation with respect to the case in the amount not to exceed two hundred and seventy-four thousand six hundred and twenty-five dollars and twenty cents (\$274,625.20) and that the Minister of Finance seek from the House of Assembly (HOA), the required funding to effect the outstanding payment and that it be reflected in the next Schedule of Additional Provision to be introduced in the HOA.
7. Decided that the Territorial Song, "*Oh Beautiful Virgin Islands*" be played, in place of the National Anthem, "*God Save the Queen*", at regional and international sports events where a participant(s) representing the Territory of the Virgin Islands receives a medal and that a Resolution be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
8. Decided that the following persons be appointed as members to the Higher Education Licensing Board with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2019 to 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2020: Messrs. John Samuel (Deputy Chairman), Ray George and John Black.
9. Reviewed and approved applications for Certificates of Belonger Status, and Residence and Belonger Status under the Clear Path to Regularisation: Residency and Belonger Status Programme, for persons who have met the legal requirements of Section 2 (4) of the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2019.
10. Reviewed and received the report on the 2014 Audited Financial Statements of the BVI Health Services Authority for the year and decided that the report be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at its next convenient Sitting.

11. Reviewed and accepted the Medical and Dental Council's Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 2016 and decided that the documents be tabled in the House of Assembly at its next convenient Sitting.
12. Reviewed and accepted the British Virgin Islands Cancer Society 2018's Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 2018 and decided that the documents be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
13. Approved one Non-Belongers land holding licence application.

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His Excellency the Acting Governor Mr. David Archer, Jr. chaired the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 in the absence of 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.

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

The Cabinet:

1. Decided that Ms. Oleanvine Maynard be appointed as Acting Deputy Managing Director at the BVI Ports Authority for a period of three (3) months with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 or until the formal recruitment process is completed, whichever comes first as per the BVI Ports Authority Board's Resolution.
2. Reviewed and approved the revised Recovery to Development Plan of the Virgin Islands 2019-2023, which will serve as the framework to guide the Territory's recovery to development for the benefit of the people of the Virgin Islands and decided that the Plan be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
3. Noted that the Premier and Minister of Finance Honourable Andrew A. Fahie led a delegation to London from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 to discuss the conditions of the United Kingdom Loan Guarantee and other matters.

4. Decided:

- a. on the establishment of a negotiating and borrowing committee on behalf of the Government of the Virgin Islands (GoVI) to secure funding under the UK Loan Guarantee, once the terms and conditions are agreed by the GoVI and the United Kingdom Government (UKG), and subsequently approved by the UKG, and all requisite agreements to activate the Loan Guarantee (the “Guarantee”) come into force and for all other borrowing for recovery and development.
- b. that the Borrowing Committee will:
  - i. be the sole entity authorised by the Cabinet of the Virgin Islands, in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, to source and negotiate loans under the “Guarantee”, pursuant to the implementation of the revised Recovery to Development Plan (the “Plan”), as amended by the Cabinet and the House of Assembly, and all other borrowing for recovery and development;
  - ii. review the terms and conditions of loans offered by lending institutions to the GoVI under the Guarantee and all other borrowing as presented to the Minister of Finance (the “Minister”);
  - iii. recommend to the Minister, any amendments to the terms and conditions of loans offered by lending institutions under the Guarantee, and all other borrowing within the limits of the Debt Sustainability Indicators and in accordance with the international standards for debt management, as stipulated by the International Monetary Fund Guidelines for Public Debt Management;
  - iv. recommend to the Cabinet, through the Minister, the most appropriate loan or loans with the most favourable terms and conditions under the Guarantee and all other borrowing; and
  - v. be guided by the Virgin Islands Public Finance Management Act and any other relevant legislation and regulations of the Virgin Islands.
- c. that the Borrowing Committee will comprise of the following members:
  - a. Financial Secretary or designate – Chairman
  - b. Permanent Secretary/Premier’s Office or designate
  - c. Attorney General or designate
  - d. Nominee by the Leader of the Opposition
  - e. Nominee representing the Business Community (*to be appointed by the Premier and Minister of Finance*)

- f. External Regional Member – (Appointed by the Premier and Minister of Finance)
  - g. Representative from the BVI Banking Association
  - h. Member from the Premier’s Office – Secretary
5. Decided to establish a Recovery Steering Group (RSG) under the Premier’s Office to act as the central coordinating body and focal point responsible for guiding the recovery and development of the Territory, as detailed in the revised Recovery to Development Plan comprising the following members:
- i. The Premier or designate – Chairman;
  - ii. Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration
  - iii. Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities
  - iv. Minister for Education, Culture Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture
  - v. Minister for Health and Social Development
  - vi. Financial Secretary or designate;
  - vii. Permanent Secretary/Premier’s Office or designate;
  - viii. Director of Projects/Ministry of Finance;
  - ix. Policy and Strategy Advisor/Premier’s Office;
  - x. Member to be appointed by the Premier;
  - xi. Member to be appointed by the Leader of the Opposition;
  - xii. All Permanent Secretaries - *ex-officio* members of the RSG; and
  - xiii. Officer from the Premier’s Office – Secretary to the RSG (*ex-officio Member*)
6. Decided that the Expression of Interest and subsequent Request for Proposals for the rebuilding of the Palm Grove Shopping Centre be issued only to BVIslanders or Belongers of the Territory of the Virgin Islands, resident in any jurisdiction or country and that non-Belongers can partner with one or more BVIslander or Belonger, or a mixture of both, once the BVIslander or Belonger or multiple BVIslanders or Belongers have majority ownership of the joint venture or consortium.
7. Decided that Ms. Lorna F. Christopher be appointed as Chairman of the Taxi and Livery Commission, pursuant to s. 3(2) of the Road Traffic (Taxi and Livery Commission) Regulations, 1997, as amended, for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 and also appointed the following members: Mr. Kenrico Wheatley, Sr., representing taxi-cab operators in Tortola, for a period of one and a half years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2021; Mr. Gregory Callwood, representing taxi-cab operators on the Sister Islands, for a period of two (2) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

8. Decided that freehold titles to Parcel 6, Block 3337B, Parcel 164, Block 3238B and the unexpired leasehold interest in Parcel 7/1, Block 3337B, more commonly referred to as “Colonial Manor” Long Look Registration Section be transferred to the Board of Governors of the H. Lavity Stoutt College for a consideration sum of one dollar (\$1.00) and noted that a total of 134 acres will be transferred to assist the College with future expansion that will aid the educational process and development of the people of the Territory of the Virgin Islands.
9. Decided to re-appoint the following persons as members of the Public Assistance Committee for a period of two (2) years with effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019 to 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021 pursuant to Section 3(2) of the Public Assistance Act, 2013: Pastor Calvin Mills, Mrs. Keturah Crabbe, Mrs. Wistaria Donovan and Ms. Trisha Evans and also appointed Mrs. Claudette I. Francis-Smith as a member for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
10. Approved a number of Non-Belongers land holding licence applications.

*Further information on these matters will be provided by the Premier and Ministers in due course.*

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 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.