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

### **CABINET DECISIONS** **2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019. The Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Health and Social Development Hon. Carvin Malone, who was overseas on official business.

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Decided to delegate to the Registrar General, (in which another Marriage Officer is solemnising the ceremony) the power to sign same-day Marriage Licences as per section 36(2)(f) of the Marriage (Amendment) Act, 2017.
2. Decided to reconstitute the Prospect Reef Management Board by appointing the following persons as members of the Board of Directors for the Prospect Reef Management Company for a period of one year in accordance with the Prospect Reef Management Act: Mrs. Kenisha Sprauve (Chairperson); Directors Mr. Ray George, Mrs. Tamara Maduro, Mr. John Samuel, Leader of the Opposition's nominee and Shareholders, the Financial Secretary and Permanent Secretary in the Premier's Office.
3. Noted that the Maritime Labour Convention, when adopted, will allow the Virgin Islands to become compliant with a very critical internationally required maritime law for securing and building its reputation as a Category One Shipping Registry and a member of the Red Ensign Group.
4. Noted that the BVI became an Associate Member from June 2019 for a period of two (2) years and thereafter will become a full member of the Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding - Port State Control.
5. Decided that the following draft Resolutions for the Schedule of Additional Provision, No. 2 of 2018 be introduced by way of a motion for approval by Members at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly:

- a. Recurrent Expenditure of one million, ninety-five thousand dollars (\$1,095,000) to be expended in variation of the appropriated amount;
  - b. Capital Acquisition Expenditure of one million, two hundred twenty-nine thousand, eighty-nine dollars and fifty-one cents (\$1,229,089.51) to be expended in variation of the appropriated amount; and
  - c. Development Expenditure of ten million, five hundred seventy-six thousand, five hundred and eighty-six dollars (\$10,576,586) to be expended in variation of the appropriated amount.
6. Decided that the tender process be retroactively waived for the extension of contract to be issued to Mrs. Lucia C. Lettsome for consultancy services associated with the reform in the Ministry of Finance for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2018 to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 and 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 at a salary of ninety-six thousand dollars (\$96,000.00) per annum, plus allowances in the amount of eleven thousand, four hundred, twenty-four dollars (\$11,424.00) per annum.
7. Decided to purchase Parcel 36, Block 2638B, West Central Registration Section, measuring 13/4 of acre, at a consideration sum of one hundred and eighty-six thousand dollars (\$186,000) from Audrey Draisin *nee* Turnbull and Lyndley Turnbull, as personal representatives of the Estate of Daniel Turnbull (deceased) and decided that a plaque be placed on the school building recognising the descendants of Daniel Turnbull, who were key partners in the establishment of Meyer's Primary School (now Enis Adams Primary School).
8. Decided on a period of relief of seventy-five percent (75%) of interests accrued for 2018 and prior years on property tax commencing 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020, upon application by property owners, to pay the outstanding principal tax with twenty-five (25) percent of the interest sum payable forthwith or agree to a payment plan with the Commissioner of Inland Revenue to liquidate the principal tax with twenty-five (25) percent of the interest sum payable within the relief period.
9. Decided that the Government of the Virgin Islands enter into a lease agreement with Lake Development Co. Ltd. for two floors for a period of three (3) years for office space measuring three thousand and sixty-seven (3,067) square feet and for five (5) years for office space measuring nine hundred and thirty-two (932) square feet in the Cutlass Tower to accommodate the Office of the Premier at the rate of thirty-eight dollars (\$38) per square foot, plus a monthly service fee of four dollars and twenty-five cents (\$4.25) per square foot, per floor.

10. Approved an honorarium totaling nineteen thousand, one hundred and fifty dollars (\$19,150) for the staff of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections in appreciation of the extra hours worked to ensure the successful process of the 2019 General Elections.
11. Approved one Non-Belongers land holding licence application and two new Bank charges over property leased by the Crown for commercial purposes.

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His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. The Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present.

### **Cabinet Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Noted that the National Security Council considered the proposal for the witness anonymity legislation at its meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 and agreed that the Government of the Virgin Islands should consider the introduction of legislation to enable a witness in criminal proceedings to be granted anonymity when giving evidence before a court due to a reasonable fear on the part of the witness or another person of death, injury, retaliation, recrimination or oppression or serious damage to property if the witness is identified and that the Attorney General's Chambers be instructed to draft legislation to facilitate the implementation of witness anonymity in criminal proceedings.
2. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Police Act, 2019, which seeks to bring together an updated legislative basis for policing in the Territory and provides a strong constitutional and professional base for a modernised Police Force; noted that the proposed Act will replace the Police Act (Cap. 165) and its amendments and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
3. Noted that the UK Government's new Caribbean strategy draws together the Commonwealth Caribbean and the UK's six (6) Overseas Territories in the region under a new whole of UK Government approach to help align activities and programmes more effectively in the region to help maximise impact, according to the HMG Caribbean Strategy.

4. Received the Situation Report prepared by the Department of Disaster Management following the passage of Hurricane Dorian; noted actions taken during and after the passage of Hurricane Dorian and noted the strategic focus areas to be addressed.
5. Considered and decided on the renewal of pioneer status to New Horizon Ferry Service Ltd. under the First Schedule of the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance (Cap. 297) in the enterprise of "Ferry Services" for a period of three (3) years beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019.
6. Agreed that a legal framework should be established between Government and financial institutions where public officers can borrow money and direct payments are made to those financial institutions to repay the loans and other financial transactions on behalf of the public officer.
7. Reviewed and considered the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System (BOSSs) (Amendment) (No. 3) Act, 2019, which seeks to facilitate the "BOSSs" being able to be extended to gather economic substance information required to be filed by legal entities in the BVI (via their respective registered agents) with the BVI International Tax Authority and decided that the Act be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
8. Approved the acquisition by the Government of the Virgin Islands for the purchase of Toad Hall Estate property; decided that subsequent to the purchase of the property, the Government, may in its discretion transfer the property to the National Parks Trust (NPT) in consideration of the NPT reimbursing the Government for the purchase of the property and decided that funding for the purchase would be sourced from the 2020 Budget Estimates or by a Schedule of Additional Provision.

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His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Special Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. The Special Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present.

### **Special Cabinet Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Considered and reviewed the Bill, entitled Charging Orders Act, 2019, which seeks to confer jurisdiction on the High Court to make orders imposing a charge for securing the payment of money due under judgments or orders of the High Court and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.

2. Decided that the Central Administration Building be renamed to the Ralph T. O'Neal Administration Building in honour of Mr. O'Neal's sterling contributions of public service to the Territory of the Virgin Islands for over 40 years and that a Resolution, to be brought by the Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.

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His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration Hon. Vincent Wheatley, who was overseas on official business.

### **Cabinet Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2019**

The Cabinet:

1. Noted that the 46<sup>th</sup> Celebration to commemorate USVI/BVI Friendship Day would be hosted by the United States Virgin Islands on 19<sup>th</sup> October on the island of St. Thomas under the theme *46<sup>th</sup> Sapphire Celebration of Camaraderie, Community, and Culture* and that it would showcase various aspects of Virgin Islands culture through dance, musical performances and drama.
2. Decided that the following persons be re-appointed to the Financial Services Commission's Board of Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of section 5 of the Financial Services Commission Act, 2001: Mr. Robin Gaul (Chairman) for a period of three (3) years from 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2018 – 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2021; Commissioners Jonathan Fiechter (external) and Ms. Carlene Romney for a period of one (1) year from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020; Carl Hiralal (external) for a period of two (2) years from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 – 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 and Ms. Denise Reovan for a period of two (2) years from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2018 – 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.
3. Approved the variation for the purchase of engines and other retrofitting work for M/V Predator assigned to Her Majesty's Customs and that it be procured from Powerplay Powerboats in the amount of \$216,996.00 and decided that funding be approved through a Schedule of Additional Provision from savings identified in the amounts of \$130,255 and \$51,000 by HM Customs and the RVIPF, respectively.

4. Accepted the recommendation of the Central Tenders Board to award Proficient Business Services Ltd. the contract for the supply of Police ICT-CCTV Surveillance Equipment in the British Virgin Islands in the amount of nine hundred sixty-nine thousand, five hundred thirty-four dollars and twenty-eight cents (\$969,534.28).
5. Approved two Non-Belongers land holding licence applications and sale of Crown land for residential purposes.

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

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 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.