



CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

7th November, 2019

His Excellency the Governor Augustus Jaspert chaired the Meeting held on 7th November, 2019, which was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Central Administration Building.

All Members were present.

Cabinet Meeting – 7th November, 2019

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved the draft Integrity in Public Life Policy that aims to promote and enhance standards of ethical conduct for public officers, legislators and statutory agencies and state owned enterprises; decided that the Bill, entitled Integrity in Public Life, 2003 be reviewed in line with the policy and incorporate a review of the Register of Interests and Complaints Commission Acts.
2. Noted that the Office of the Governor has secured UK funding to hire Security and Justice (S&J) Advisor Mr. Rohan Burdett for a period of three months to assist the Territory's S&J agencies draft a 'Security and Justice Vision for the BVI' and noted that the 'Security and Justice Vision for the BVI' will include a review of the current S&J agencies, legislation, policies, strategies, governance and organisational structures as well as recommendations for improvement, an identified list of priorities for investment and a prioritised plan and strategy for the sustainable implementation of the recommendations and investment.
3. Reviewed the application received on behalf of Tola Beverage Company Ltd. for pioneer status under the First Schedule of the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance (Cap. 297) and decided to grant pioneer status to Tola Beverage Company Ltd. in accordance with Section 3 of the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance (Cap. 297), First Schedule, Paragraph (b)(xxi) to engage in the enterprise of "Manufacture of Brewery Products" for a period of ten (10) years beginning on 1st June, 2019.

4. Decided that a Resolution be taken to the House of Assembly seeking permission to appoint Mrs. Rosemarie Flax as Chairman of the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (BVIEC) for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 15th November, 2019 to 14th November 2022 and approved the appointments of the following persons to the BVIEC Board with effect from 15th November, 2019: Mr. Wayne Robinson as Vice Chairman, and Member Mr. Hymen Husein for a period of three (3) years, and Ms. Pearl Smith and Mr. Jasen Fahie for a period of two (2) years. *Ex-Officio* Members are BVIEC General Manager and Permanent Secretary in the Premier's Office.
5. Noted that a total of fourteen (14) ministries and departments would be relocated from the Central Administration Building; noted the list of available accommodation which may be considered to relocate Government offices and the recommended accommodation for the relocation of Government offices from the Central Administration Building and:
 - a. agreed that the sum of three hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$380,000) be approved for rent costs for 2019 and that the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) be approved for relocation costs;
 - b. decided that the Government of the Virgin Islands enters into lease agreements as follows:
 - i. Manuel Reef Marina Limited for a period of two (2) years, in the first instance, for office space measuring 2,394 square feet on the second floor of the Manuel Reef Marina Building, at the rate of \$30 per square foot;
 - ii. Skelton Baylot Limited/Skelton Properties Limited for a period of two (2) years, in the first instance, for office space measuring 4,900 square feet on the second floor of Building #10 located at Skelton Baylot, at the rate of \$21 per square foot, plus a service fee of \$50 per month;
 - iii. Harvey Herbert and Delker Herbert for a period of two (2) years, in the first instance, for office space measuring 2,421 square feet each on the second and third floors of Building #1 of the RG Hodge Plaza at the rate of \$3,600 per month per floor;
 - iv. Lake Development Co., Ltd. for a period of two (2) years, in the first instance, for office space measuring 3,067 square feet on the second floor of the Cutlass Tower, at the rate of \$38 per square foot plus a monthly service fee of \$4.25 per square foot;

- v. Rita Frett Georges, for a period of five (5) years, for office space measuring 11,696 square feet in RFG Place, at the rate of \$35 per square foot; and
 - vi. Burhym Electrical Services Limited for a period of two (2) years, in the first instance, for office space in the Burhym Building with the ground floor space comprised of 1,438 square feet and the first floor space comprised of 3,259 square feet, at the rate of \$34 per square foot; and
 - c. decided that consideration be given to enter into lease arrangements with the following landlords, if additional or alternate accommodation may be required:
 - i. Raphael Stoutt for office space measuring 2,960 square feet at the rate of \$30 per square foot; and
 - ii. Island Block Corporation Ltd. for office space measuring 3,000 square feet at the rate of \$35 per square foot.
- 6. Decided that the Government of the Virgin Islands enters into a lease agreement with The Valley Plaza Ltd. for the rental of storage space for the Civil Registry and Passport Office on a month-to-month basis at the rate of six hundred dollars (\$600) per month.
- 7. Decided that the Regulatory (Amendment) Code, 2019 be approved in order to place the jurisdiction in the best position to attain favourable ratings in the upcoming Group of International Financial Centre Supervisors assessment; that the Code be published in the official Gazette of the Virgin Islands and then be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
- 8. Considered and approved the Securities and Investment Business (Amendment) Act, 2019, which seeks to align the jurisdiction's fund regime with the economic substance requirements of the Code of Conduct, by introducing private investment funds into a supervisory regime and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
- 9. Decided to accept the resignation of Mr. Michael Fay, Chairman of the Financial Services Appeal Board pursuant to Clause 9(1) of the Financial Services Appeal Board Act, 2016 and that pursuant to Section 4(2)(a) of the Act, Arabella Luisa di Iorio be appointed as Member and Chairman of the Financial Services Appeal Board, for a period of three (3) years.

10. Reviewed and approved the grant of Certificates of Belonger Status for a number of applicants, who have met the legal requirements of Section 2 (4) and Section 3 of the Immigration and Passport Amendment Act, 2019.
11. Approved one Non-Belongers land holding licence application and one application for the purchase of Crown land for commercial purposes only.

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

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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.
6. Cabinet decisions will be also available on bvi.gov.vg and on Twitter.