

CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

11th August, 2021

Cabinet Meeting – 11th August, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Virtual Meeting held on 11th August, 2021.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Transportation, Works and Utilities, who was overseas on private business.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved the Magistracy's 2020 Annual Report and decided that it be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
2. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Virgin Islands Air and Sea Ports Act, 2021, which seeks to establish the Virgin Islands Air and Sea Ports Authority as a statutory corporation and to vest in the corporation the administration, management, control and operation of airports and seaports in the Virgin Islands; and:
 - a. decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting;
 - b. decided that a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed merger be carried out and re-submitted to the Cabinet for consideration, prior to the conclusion of the legislative process; and
 - c. noted that the preliminary analysis indicates that there will not be loss of employment at any of the two entities.
3. Reviewed and:
 - a. approved the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Economic Stimulus Programmes being administered by the Premier's Office: Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME); Farmers and Fishermen, and Daycares, Pre-schools, Private Schools, Churches and Religious Organisations, and Transportation;

- b. approved the methodology previously presented to the Cabinet to ensure accountability, value for money and transparency for each Economic Stimulus programme and persons/businesses/others that have received assistance through these programmes administered by the Premier's Office;
 - c. noted the template letter that was previously issued to each recipient of each of the programmes administered by the Premier's Office, which ensured that all recipients were made aware that they would have to account for the assistance received from the Government of the Virgin Islands; and
 - d. decided that the Premier's Office furnish the Cabinet with quarterly reports of the efforts of this initiative, which will then be forwarded to the House of Assembly.
- 4. 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 New Horizon Ferry Services Ltd. the contract for Barging of Waste from Jost Van Dyke to Tortola, in the amount of two hundred and eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000.00) for three (3) years.
- 5. 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 Ever Ready Trucking the contract for Managing of the Jost Van Dyke Transfer Station and Providing Hauling Services for waste from Jost Van Dyke to the Incinerator on Tortola in the amount of two hundred and ninety-two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$292,500.00).
- 6. Reviewed and:
 - a. approved the Customs Management and Duties (Amendment to Schedule 4) Order, 2021, which seeks to amend the rate of customs duty applied to all imported renewable energy products/items, energy efficiency product/items and LED products/items as follows:
 - i. that a zero customs duty rate be applied to any renewable energy product/items being imported into the Territory for a period of two (2) years with effect from 1st July, 2021 to 30th June, 2023;
 - ii. agreed that after the two (2) year duty free period, the customs duty applied to all renewable energy products/items being imported into the Territory be reduced to 10 percent across the board;

- iii. that a zero customs duty rate be applied to any energy efficient products/items being imported into the Territory for a period of two (2) years with effect from 1st July, 2021 to 30th June, 2023;
 - iv. agreed that after the two (2) year duty free period, the customs duty applied to all energy efficient products/items being imported into the Territory be reduced to 10 percent across the board;
 - v. that a zero customs duty rate be applied to any LED product/items being imported into the Territory for a period of two (2) years with effect from 1st July, 2021 to 30th June, 2023;
 - vi. agreed that after the two (2) year duty free period, the customs duty applied to all LED products/items being imported into the Territory be reduced to 15 percent across the board; and
- b. decided that the Order be gazetted and thereafter forwarded to be tabled in the House of Assembly by Resolution.
7. Approved the appointment of Dr. Cyrilyn Amarie Walters, as a member of the BVI Health Services Authority Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from 5th August, 2021, and noted that remuneration for members is five hundred dollars (\$500) monthly.
8. Examined the Schedule of Reallocation Warrants approved for the year 2020 and decided that the report be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting, in accordance with the requirements of Section 24 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2004 (“the Act”).
9. Received the seven (7) bound volumes containing a revision as at 1st January, 2020 of each of the enactments presented to Cabinet, and decided that the revised enactments be:
- a. laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
 - b. distributed to the public via any one or more online web portals, approved by the Attorney General, at no cost.
10. Approved a number of Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 19th August, 2021.

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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.