

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022**

His Excellency, the Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held at the Financial Services Commission's Resource Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Received and endorsed:

- a. the Transformation Plans for the Office of the Deputy Governor and the Ministry of Health and Social Development, respectively, in line with the following Public Service Transformation Programme priorities:

- i. Customer Service
- ii. Improved Performance
- iii. Digitization
- iv. Good Governance
- v. Change and Collaboration
- vi. Security
- vii. Innovative Thinking & Doing
- viii. Adaptation & Greening

- b. the top five (5) initiatives for the Deputy Governor's Office:

- i. Initiative 1: Enactment of the Governance Legislation as defined in the Speech from the Throne;
- ii. Initiative 2: Establish Customer Service Standards for the Public Service and implement activities to support its implementation;

- iii. Initiative 3: Complete the service-wide compensation review;
    - iv. Initiative 4: Strengthen IT systems to support HR Management, Court Operations and E-Government approach; and
    - v. Initiative 5: Enhance the Human Resource Management and Public Estate Management programme to increase efficiency and productive
  - c. the top five (5) initiatives for the Ministry of Health and Social Development:
    - i. Initiative 1: Social Protection Information System;
    - ii. Initiative 2: Sustainable, integrated Waste Management Strategy (waste reduction, reuse, recycling, sanitary disposal);
    - iii. Initiative 3: Collaboration across Ministries to implement the National Action Plan against COVID-19 Pandemic;
    - iv. Initiative 4: Fully establish Next Generation 911 Centre; and
    - v. Initiative 5: Modernise Prison infrastructure.
  - d. decided that the funding required for implementation of the plan for the Ministry of Health and Social Development as outlined, be considered via the reprioritisation of the Ministry's budget (current and future) or if necessary, through a Schedule of Additional Provisions based on the availability of funds.
2. Reviewed the Annual Report of the Office of the Deputy Governor for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 and decided that the Report be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
  3. Reviewed the Annual Report of the Governor's Office for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021 and decided that the Report be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
  4. Approved the exemption of duty for Mr. Arringdell Creque of Agri-Paradise VG Ltd. on equipment for crop production in a greenhouse with a value of one thousand, three hundred and three dollars and twenty cents (\$1,303.20) in accordance with Section 54(3) of the Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010 as amended, Schedule 5, Paragraph 13(1) and noted that Mr. Arringdell Creque is eligible to receive this exemption of duty as a registered farmer and in the business of agriculture in accordance with the requirement of the Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010 as amended, Schedule 5, Paragraph 13(1).

5. Considered an amendment to Schedule 4 of the Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010 (“the Act from Customs duty under the Customs Management and Duties (Amendment of Schedule 4) Order, 2022 (“the Order”); approved the Order to amend Schedule 4 of the Act and decided that the Order be published in the Gazette upon approval and laid on the Table of the House of Assembly at its next convenient Sitting.
6. Decided that the formal tender process be waived for the provision of integrated communications support to continue to rebuild and promote the brand and reputation of the Virgin Islands in the international market, in respect of the four (4) months extension granted to the Commission of Inquiry; that a new contract be entered into with Maitland Consultancy for a period of five (5) months with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022 for an amount, not to exceed seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) for five (5) months, and that funding in the amount of one million, one hundred and eighty-nine thousand, seven hundred and eighty-six dollars and twenty-nine cents (\$1,189,786.29) be approved via a Schedule of Additional Provision at the earliest Sitting of the House of Assembly to replenish the Marketing and Advertising Subhead and cover other expenses for the remainder of 2022.
7. Decided:
  - a. that the following persons be appointed as members of the Medical and Dental Council in accordance with Schedule 1 section 3 (1) of the Medical Act, 2000 Council for a period of two (2) years with effect from 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2022:
    - i. Dr. Elson Vanterpool (Minister's nominee) (Medical Practitioner)
    - ii. Dr. Craig Stoutt (Medical Association's nominee) (Medical Practitioner)
    - iii. Ms. Stacy Lloyd (Minister's nominee) (fit and proper person)
  - b. that Dr. Nikki Rubaine (Dental Practitioner) be reappointed as a member of the Medical and Dental Council in accordance with Schedule 1 section 3 (1) of the Medical Act, 2000 for a period of three (3) years with effect from 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.
8. Noted that the draft National Emergency Relief Policy was revised to incorporate the lessons learnt from the 2017 disaster events and approved the draft National Emergency Relief Policy and decided that the document be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.

9. Approved the draft Foster Care Procedural Manual to be used to guide in the Foster Care process.

10. Decided that:

- a. effective 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, fully vaccinated persons travelling from overseas would require a rapid antigen test on arrival provided they do not have satisfactory evidence of an rt-PCR test or an approved antigen test taken within 48 hours of arrival in the Territory;
- b. effective 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, partially vaccinated persons travelling from overseas would require a rt-PCR test within five (5) days of travel, provide satisfactory evidence of being partially vaccinated, and will be administered a rapid antigen test on arrival and will be cleared for release to roam freely, provided the rt-PCR test is negative; the requirement for registration of the BVI Gateway portal remains;
- c. effective 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2022, unvaccinated persons travelling from overseas would require a rt-PCR test within five (5) days of travel, and a rapid antigen test will be administered on arrival and will be cleared for release to roam freely, provided the test is negative; the requirement for registration of the BVI Gateway portal remains;
- d. subject to amendment made in the relevant legislation, the requirement of face masks/coverings by all individuals over age 5 be allowed as a matter of choice in outdoor public spaces and when in an indoor public space mask remain mandatory when within three (3) feet of other persons;
- e. the one person per nine (9) square feet requirement in the Public Health (COVID-19 Control and Suppression Measures) Order be removed; and
- f. the Ministry of Health and Social Development instruct the Attorney General to draft the necessary amendments to the COVID-19 Control and Suppression (Entry of Persons) Regulations and the Public Health (COVID-19 Control and Suppression Measures) Order which would give effect to the agreed policy changes as noted in items (a) to (e).

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.**

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