

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, which was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and accepted the list of Public Holidays for 2022, and decided:
  - a. that proclamations be issued by the Governor appointing the following:
    - i. Virgin Islands Day (formerly Territory Day) - Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July to be observed on the first Monday in July (4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022)
    - ii. Heroes and Foreparents Day (replaced St. Ursula's Day) - Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> October to be observed on the third Monday in October (17<sup>th</sup> October, 2022)
  - b. that the Governor issue a proclamation to bring the above into effect;
  - c. that the Governor make an appointment in accordance with paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the Public Holidays Act in relation to the day appointed to observe the Sovereign's birthday;
  - d. that the Governor issues a proclamation that in the year 2022, and that the following public holidays listed in the Schedule to the Public Holidays Act shall not be observed as public holidays and that the stated days be instead substituted:
    - i. Territory Day, being the first day of July to be substituted by Virgin Islands Day on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2022;

- ii. Festival Monday being the first Monday in August to be substituted by Emancipation Monday on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022;
  - iii. Festival Tuesday, being the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in August to be substituted by Emancipation Tuesday on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2022;
  - iv. Festival Wednesday, being the Wednesday immediately following the first Monday in August to be substituted by Emancipation Wednesday on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2022;
  - v. St. Ursula's Day being the twenty-first day of October to be substituted by Heroes and Foreparents Day on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2022;
  - vi. Commonwealth Day, being the Second Monday in March to be substituted by the Commemoration of the 1949 Great March and the Restoration of the Legislative Council holiday Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2022; and
- e. noted the list of public and common law holidays to be celebrated in the year 2022 where the above recommendations are accepted and agreed that the final and full list of public and common law holidays for 2022 listed below be published by 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2021, once the Governor makes the aforementioned proclamations:

i.	Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January (In lieu of Saturday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January)	New Year's Day
ii.	Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> March	The Anniversary of the Birth of Hamilton Lavity Stoutt
iii.	Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Good Friday
iv.	Monday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Monday
v.	Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Whit Monday
vi.	Friday, 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Sovereign's Birthday
vii.	Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Virgin Islands Day
viii.	Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> August	Emancipation Monday
ix.	Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Emancipation Tuesday

x.	Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Emancipation Wednesday
xi.	Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Heroes and Foreparents Day
xii.	Monday, 21 <sup>st</sup> November	The Commemoration of the 1949 Great March and the Restoration of the Legislative Council holiday
xiii.	Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December	Boxing Day
xiv.	Tuesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December (In lieu of Sunday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December)	Christmas Day

2. Reviewed and approved:

- a. the composition of a Committee, to be chaired by the Premier's Office and co-chaired by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture, to manage Heroes and Foreparents Day as follows:
  - i. Permanent Secretary, Premier's Office or designate
  - ii. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture or designate
  - iii. Two (2) persons nominated by the Premier
  - iv. Permanent Secretary, Office of the Deputy Governor or designate
  - v. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Development or designate
  - vi. Chief Education Officer or designate
  - vii. Director of Culture or designate
  - viii. Chief Information Officer or designate
  - ix. Chief Records Management Officer, Archives Unit or designate
  - x. Director of Tourism or designate
  - xi. Director of Virgin Islands Studies, H. Lavity Stoutt Community College or designate

- xii. A Representative, Virgin Islands Youth Parliament
  - xiii. Poet Laureate or designate
  - xiv. Representatives from three (3) civic organisations
  - xv. Three (3) Sister Islands Representative; and
- b. decided that the Committee establish criteria for the selection of National Heroes and Heroes and propose:
- i. a list of names to designate as National Heroes and Heroes; and
  - ii. appropriate means for honouring National Heroes and Heroes.
3. Reviewed the 2019 Governor's Office Annual Report and decided that it be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
4. Reviewed and approved the amendments to the "Cruise Protocol and Operation Plan" to allow for the following:
- a. where the BVI is the first port of entry, fully vaccinated passengers with a negative PCR or Antigen test as stated in the Cruise Protocol and Operation Plan will be permitted to free flow throughout the Territory; and
  - b. where the BVI is not the first port of entry, Cruise Lines that offer their fully vaccinated passengers and crew to rapid test within 24 hours of arrival, will be permitted to move freely within the Territory.
5. Noted the Situation Report #40 presented by the Health Emergency Operations Centre - Unified Command and:
- a. decided to remove the limit on gathering sizes, except that organisers and proprietors of events would be required to ensure that health and safety protocols are adhered to and that there is no more than one (1) person per nine (9) square feet at events, unless otherwise as approved by the Ministry of Health and Social Development;
  - b. decided, that the Ministry of Health and Social Development instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to amend Section 4 of the Public Health (COVID-19 Control and Suppression Measures) (No. 4) Order (No. 5), 2021 for item (b) to take effect;
  - c. recommended to the National Security Council that the current Curfew Order be lifted with immediate effect;

- d. considered that persons be approved for travel to St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands on private or chartered vessels for the purposes of taking the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccines on the following basis:
  - i. exemption from departure taxes;
  - ii. exemption from portal fees and registration requirements upon return to the Territory;
  - iii. passengers would be required to pay the \$50 fee for the rapid test;
  - iv. there would be no additional itinerary items on the St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands trip and no requirement for quarantine upon return; and
  - v. required to register with the Ministry of Health and Social Development for the above to take effect.

6. Approved a number of Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021.**

**###**

**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.