

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

16th February, 2024

Cabinet Meeting – 16th February, 2024

His Excellency, the Governor Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 16th February, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Decided:

- a. that the following persons be appointed to the Prospect Reef Management Company Board:
 - i. Mr. Collingston George as Chairperson, a businessman with well-established experience, for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1st January, 2024 until 31st December, 2026;
 - ii. Ms. Kerrel Wilson as Director, a business owner and legal secretary for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1st January, 2024 until 31st December, 2026;
 - iii. Ms. Ingrid Moses-Scatliffe as Director, a lawyer and the Leader of the Opposition's nominee, for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1st January, 2024 until 31st December, 2026;
 - iv. Ms. Kimberly Kuntz as Director representative from the tourism industry is recommended for a period of two (2) Year with effect from 1st January, 2024 until 31st December, 2025; and
 - v. Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development or designee be appointed as ex-officio member;
- b. that Mr. Nathaniel Isaac, a business owner and the former Managing Director of the Prospect Reef Management Company, be re-appointed for two (2) years with effect from 1st January, 2024 until 31st December, 2025;
- c. that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the respective Instruments of Appointment; and noted

- d. that for discussion of this paper, the Minister for Communications and Work recused himself from the meeting because one of the nominees was his sister.
2. Reviewed and approved seventy-three (73) applications for Fourth Generation Belonger Status in accordance with the Immigration and Passport (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2019, where provisions were made for a person who is the great-grandchild of a person who belongs to the Virgin Islands by virtue of Section 2(d) of the Constitution, upon application for same in the prescribed manner; and decided that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instruct the Immigration Department to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
3. Decided:
 - a. that the Minister re-appoint the following persons on the Surveyors' Board for a period of three (3) years effective 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2026, in accordance with section 4(2) of the Land Surveyors' (Amendment) Act, 2005:
 - i. Marc Downing as private surveyor for three (3) years;
 - ii. Dion Stoutt as building industry representative for three (3) years;
 - b. that the Minister appoint the following persons on the Surveyors' Board for a period of three (3) years effective 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2026, with eligibility to be re-appointed, in accordance with section 4(2) of the Land Surveyors' (Amendment) Act, 2005:
 - i. Osei Baisden as private surveyor for three (3) years;
 - ii. Lavina Liburd as building industry representative for three (3) years; and noted
 - c. that the Minister has designated Marc Downing as Chairman of the Board, in accordance with section 4(4) of the Land Surveyors' (Amendment) Act, 2005;
 - d. that remuneration shall be paid to the Chairman at a rate of four hundred dollars (\$400 per month) and the other members at a rate of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) per month; and
 - e. the following ex officio members, in accordance with section 4(1)(a)(b)(e) of the Land Surveyors' (Amendment) Act, 2005, will also serve on the Board:
 - i. Chief Surveyor
 - ii. Chief Registrar of Lands
 - iii. Attorney General

4. Decided:
 - a. to amend the draft Virgin Islands Crown Land Policy as follows:
 - i. page 3, add constitutional definition for Virgin Islander and Belonger;
 - ii. page 17, item 1 - to now read, Virgin Islander or Belonger;
 - iii. page 17, item 3 - to now read, Income below \$100,000 per annum but above \$20,000 per annum;
 - iv. page 17, paragraph three (3), second sentence - to now read: Such criteria may take consideration of a person's ancestral ties, tenure, geographical ties, financial capacity, social vulnerability, responsibility for dependents and contributions to society...contributing members of society without the financial means to acquire land on the open market.
 - b. that in accordance with Commission of Inquiry's B31 Recommendation, the draft Virgin Islands Crown Land Policy, as amended, which governs the administration, management, development and use of all Crown Land for all current purposes, and focuses on strengthening the transparent administration and management of Crown Lands, including disposal of the same, be formally approved and adopted into active use for the management of all Crown Lands and reclaimed (seabed) areas with immediate effect;
 - c. that the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the Territory's Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges Act, 2005 to include the proposed/updated application fees;
 - d. that the new application forms for Crown Land be approved for use in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Crown Land Policy; and
 - e. that the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to review the policy and thereafter draft the respective bill.
5. Approved the recommendation to re-issue the provisional licence to Tiber Health Benefit Corporation *dba* Ponce Health Sciences University - BVI to include the insertion under the conditions of the licence, which reads "as a complete and independent medical education programme, grant a MD degree (or its equivalent).
6. Approved the appointment of the Director of Culture to serve on the National Council on Human and Social Development; and approved the amendment to the Charter to include the Director of Culture.

7. Approved two (2) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications and one revocation of land grant at Spooners Estate.

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