

CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

17th February, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 17th February, 2021, which was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Financial Investigation Agency (Amendment) Act, 2021, which will update and streamline the provisions of the Act empowering the Financial Investigation Agency to better perform in meeting anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) obligations attributable to it in readiness for the next Caribbean Financial Action Task Force mutual evaluation of the Virgin Islands, and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
2. Reviewed and approved the draft terms of reference for the establishment of a Hydrographic Service and Standards Committee and approved its composition, including a recording secretary, as follows:
 - i. Director of Virgin Islands Shipping Registry - Chairman
 - ii. Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration
 - iii. Chief Planner - Town and Country Planning Department
 - iv. Director of National Parks Trust
 - v. Director of Disaster Management
 - vi. Chief Registrar of Lands
 - vii. Director of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
 - viii. Director of Public Works Department
 - ix. Commissioner of Police
 - x. Chief Fire Officer
 - xi. Director of Department of Information technology

3. Reviewed and approved:
 - a. the Institutional Framework to guide the development of the BVI's National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP);
 - b. approved the establishment of the Working Planning Group to include technical persons from the following ministries/departments:
 - i. Premier's Office
 - ii. Deputy Governor's Office
 - iii. Town and Country Planning Department
 - iv. Central Statistics Office
 - v. Ministry of Natural Resources Labour and Immigration
 - vi. Ministry of Health and Social Development
 - vii. Ministry of Transportation, Works and Utilities
 - viii. Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture
 - ix. Department of Disaster Management
 - c. noted the budget for expenditure related to the development of the NSDP and that the cost would be met from the appropriate subheads from within the Premier's Office 2021 Budget allocations.
4. Noted the update presented on the Territory's III Code Audit Readiness, including the summary of a stakeholders' action plan and progress towards addressing each identified gap.
5. Approved:
 - a. the continuance of works with the issuance of a new contract agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and EZ Shipping Limited to provide two (2) barges to serve as radar platforms for the securing of sea borders for a further one month, with effect from 23rd December, 2020 through 22nd January, 2021 in the amount of three hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$360,000);
 - b. noted that the previous contract with EZ Shipping Limited has resulted in improved border security measures that are quantitatively successful in deterring illicit border activity; effected a marked reduction in marine traffic and that the BVI is working assiduously towards finalisation of a Sea Border Protection Plan to include long-term solutions;
 - c. agreed that funding in the amount of three hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$360,000), via a Schedule of Additional Provision, be approved by the House of Assembly at its earliest convenient Sitting; and

- d. decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the contract before it is signed.
6. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Financing and Money Services (Amendment) (No.2) Act, 2021, which seeks to allow the Financial Services Commission to retain the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the funds collected in respect of the transaction levy, before paying over the transaction levy to the miscellaneous purposes fund, and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
7. Noted and agreed the matrix of activities for the establishment of the Constitutional Review Commission and approved:
 - a. the communication budget to immediately implement the public education campaign;
 - b. the overall budget not to exceed three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the establishment of the Constitution Review Commission and implementation of associated activities; and
 - c. agreed that the funding be provided to the Premier's Office in the next available Supplementary Appropriation Provision.
8. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) Technical Sub-Committee, which was approved by the CTB on 5th February, 2021, and accepted the CTB's recommendation to award:
 - a. Kendol Arthur & Colene Penn *dba* K & C Construction the contract for the construction of the New Social Home, Sea Cow's Bay, Tortola in the amount of one hundred and ninety-four thousand, three hundred and forty-one dollars and forty cents (\$194,341.40); and
 - b. Caribbean Environmental Restoration Company Ltd. the contract for the Construction of the New Social Home, East End, Jost Van Dyke in the amount of one hundred and sixty-three thousand, six hundred and seventy-eight dollars and ninety cents (\$163,678.90).
 - c. Kendol Arthur & Colene Penn *dba* K & C Construction the contract for the construction of the New Social Home, White Bay, Jost Van Dyke in the amount of one hundred and seventy-seven thousand, four hundred and eight dollars (\$177,408.00).

9. Decided:

- a. that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Financial Services Commission Act, 2001, the following persons be appointed to the Financial Services Commission's Board of Commissioners:
 - i. Robin Gaul, Chairman for two (2) years (6th February, 2021 to 5th February, 2023);
 - ii. Kharid Fraser, Deputy Chairman and Member for three (3) years (14th December, 2020 to 13th December, 2023);
 - iii. William Gilmore, External Commissioner and Member for two (2) years (14th December, 2020 to 13th December, 2022); and
- b. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the Instruments of Appointment and thereafter forward documents to be gazetted.

10. Approved applications for a number of Non-Belongers land holding licences.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 25th February, 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.