

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024**

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024. All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Approved the reappointment of the following members for a two-year term in accordance with section 9(1) of the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Act, 2018, which permits reappointment for one additional term, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026:
  - a. Mrs. Geraldine Ritter Freeman - representative, Office of the Governor;
  - b. Dr. Sauda Smith - donor representative;
  - c. Mr. Marquese Maduro - member, representing individuals between the ages of 18 and 35; and
  - d. Mr. Shea Alexander - Sister Island Representative.
  
2. Approved:
  - a. the reappointments of the following members for a two-year term in alignment with section 7(1)(b)(vi) and (vii) of the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Act, 2018, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026:
    - i. Mr. Michael Fay, KC – civil society representative; and
    - ii. Bishop John I Cline – private sector representative.
  
  - b. the appointment of Mr. Jerry Samuel as chairperson and member for a two-year term in accordance with section 7(1)(b)(vi) and (vii) of the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Act, 2018 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026; and decided,
  
  - c. that the Premier's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the Instruments of Appointments for signature and publication in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette; and noted,

- d. that the chairman and members will receive monthly stipends of \$1200 and \$800, respectively from the Recovery and Development Agency funds.
3. Approved the appointment of Mr. Romney Penn, Ms. Hermia Tench, Mr. Albert Wheatley, Mrs. Mitsy Ellis-Simpson, Mr. Olanzo Boynes, Mr. Berke Ayazli and Ms. Rochelle Lawrence as the initial directors of the Board of the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority; and
    - a. endorsed the Minister's recommendation to appoint the following persons:
      - i. Mr. Romney Penn as chairperson; and
      - ii. Ms. Hermia Tench as deputy chairperson.
    - b. decided that the directors be appointed for the years indicated in accordance with Section 2(2), (a), (b), and (c) of Schedule 1 of the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Act, 2023:
      - i. Mr. Romney Penn for four (4) years;
      - ii. Ms. Hermia Tench for four (4) years;
      - iii. Mr. Albert Wheatley for three (3) years;
      - iv. Mr. Berke Ayazli for three (3) years;
      - v. Ms. Rochelle Lawrence for three (3) years;
      - vi. Mrs. Mitsy Ellis-Simpson for two (2) years; and
      - vii. Mr. Olanzo Boynes for two (2) years (Leader of the Opposition's recommendation);
    - c. decided that the following stipends be paid in accordance with section 9, sub-section (4) of the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Act, 2023 - chairperson - \$1,500; deputy chairperson - \$1,200; and directors - \$800;
    - d. decided that the Premier's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the Instruments of Appointment once the Act comes into force;
    - e. noted that the remainder of the Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority Act, 2023 will come into effect within one (1) week of Cabinet's approval of the Board membership and that the effective date of the Board's appointment will be within two (2) weeks of Cabinet's decision; and
    - f. noted that the Minister for Health and Social Development recused himself from the meeting for discussion of this paper on the basis that his brother was recommended to be appointed as a director.

4. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Immigration and Passport (Amendment) Act, 2024, as amended, which seeks to give effect to the Belonger Status and Residence Policy for the Virgin Islands by introducing:
    - i. provisions for the establishment of an immigration quota-setting committee;
    - ii. a pathway to residence and belonger status for children born in the Territory to non-belonger parents; and
    - iii. grant of certificates of residence by investment and the establishment of an Immigration Appeals Board; and
  - b. approved the proposed schedule of revised and new fees for the Bill; and
  - c. decided that the Bill, as amended, be introduced for its first reading at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
5. Reviewed and considered the Crown Lands Management Bill, 2024, which seeks to provide legislation and operational guidance related to the administration, management, regulation, control and disposition of Crown Lands and all other matters related thereto; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
6. Approved three (3) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.**

**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.

**###**