

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

1st September, 2021

Cabinet Meeting – 1st September, 2021

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer, Jr., chaired the Meeting held on 1st September, 2021, in the absence of Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, who was overseas on private business. The Meeting was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Decided:
 - a. to amend Statutory Instrument No. 67 of 2021 Covid-19 Control and Suppression (Entry of Persons) (No. 3) (Amendment) 12th June, 2021 to remove the requirement for rapid testing for fully vaccinated cruise ship passengers and crew visiting the Territory for less than 24 hours, subject to enhanced COVID-19 protocols, including passenger bubbles and enhanced COVID-19 monitoring and enforcement;
 - b. to assign a Task Force, headed by the Director the BVI Tourist Board to develop, implement and enforce a Cruise Ship Bubble Operation Plan and to report its contents to the Cabinet in one (1) week;
 - c. that cruise liners in transit to the Virgin Islands, that subject their fully vaccinated passengers and crew to rapid tests within 24 hours of arrival, would not be subjected to the bubble protocol and would be allowed to move freely within the Territory;
 - d. that cruise ship passengers, wishing not to be a part of the bubble and be allowed to move freely within the Territory, will be subject to an approved rapid test with results available within five (5) minutes;

- e. that as a matter of precaution, all cruise ships prior to entering the BVI and being cleared to berth at the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park or any other designated anchorage at one of the Sister Islands, must report any passengers on board the ship who are ill, especially with COVID-19 symptoms, or have tested positive prior to arrival;
 - f. that the BVI Ports Authority, BVI Tourist Board, the Taxi and Livery Commission, Environmental Health Division, along with other Government agencies be tasked to ensure that all government protocols are adhered to by all disembarking passengers, taxi operators, and all business operators, especially those at the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park;
 - g. that the BVI Tourist Board, in collaboration with the BVI Ports Authority, develop and implement a vigorous public relations campaign to heighten the vigilance of the public and to keep them informed; and
 - h. that every two weeks from the arrival of the first cruise ship during the restart of the cruise ship season, all taxi operators and businesses and Government agencies that interact with the passengers and crew of the ships who participated in the bubble or free-flow will undergo a rapid test, the cost of which shall be borne by the Government of the Virgin Islands as a pilot for a period of three (3) months, in an attempt to secure the safety of our residents while balancing lives and livelihoods.
2. Noted the National Sustainable Development Plan for the Virgin Islands – Progress Report, which covers the period December 2020 to July 2021.
 3. Reviewed and accepted the National Bank of the Virgin Islands Limited Annual Report and the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 2019; decided that the Report and Statements be tabled at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly in accordance with Section 39 (2)(a) of the Development Bank of the Virgin Islands Act (Cap. 100); and decided that both documents be published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette in accordance with Section 39 (2)(b) of the Development Bank of the Virgin Islands Act (Cap. 100).
 4. Approved the variation of the existing agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Blok Marine Construction for the design and construction of the dock at Red Bay, East End in the amount of one hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000.00) as a result of price inflation, change to the scope of works and term.
 5. Approved a number of Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

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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.