

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024

28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

### **Cabinet Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024**

His Excellency, the Governor Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Decided:
  - a. that Ms. Rochelle Smith be appointed as member of the Teaching Service Commission for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2024 until 31<sup>st</sup> February, 2027 in accordance with section 93(b) of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007;
  - b. that the stipend of \$125 per meeting be adjusted to a monthly stipend as follows:
    - i. Chairman - \$1200; and
    - ii. Members - \$1000.
2. Approved permission for transfer of land on Virgin Gorda.
3. Decided that in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of the Financial Services Commission Act, the following persons be re-appointed to the Financial Services Commission's Board of Commissioners:
  - i. Robin Gaul - Chairman with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024;
  - ii. Kharid Fraser - Deputy Chair, for three (3) years with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2026;
  - iii. Paul Carty - Member, for three (3) years with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2026; and

- iv. Ramnarine Mungroo - External Commissioner and Member, for three (3) years with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 to 13<sup>th</sup> December 2026.
- 4. Noted the draft Virgin Islands Assistance Grants Programme Policy following further consultation; reviewed and decided that the policy be accepted and put in force with immediate effect; and decided:
  - a. that the members of the Assistance Grants Committee, who are not public officers, be paid a stipend as follows:
    - i. Chairman sixteen hundred dollars (\$1600) per quarter;
    - ii. Members twelve hundred dollars (\$1200) per quarter; and
  - b. that the Virgin Islands Assistance Grants Programme Policy be laid on the table at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.
- 5. Decided that financial support is provided to BVI athletes, who meet the criteria to represent the Territory at the 2024 Summer Olympics, for development and training; and that a financial contribution is provided to BVI athletes, who meet the criteria annually for development and training; and approved that the financial contribution is disbursed to each athlete based on the tier identified within the criteria.

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**Cabinet Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

His Excellency, the Governor Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present with the exception of Premier and Minister of Finance and Minister for Communications and Works, who were overseas on official duty.

Cabinet:

- 1. Noted:
  - a. the introduction of a vetting regime to enable the full vetting of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Immigration Department, His Majesty's Prison Services and His Majesty's Customs;

- b. that an independent vetting regime will be established with the assistance of the UK's International Police Assistance Service, working in partnership with the Deputy Governor's Office and Central Government, under the direction of the Governor to satisfy the recommendation of B39;
  - c. that the National Security Council discussed this matter and the Governor has since requested that police regulations be made to enable vetting to commence of all police officers forthwith;
  - d. and approved the Vetting Policy & Approach;
  - e. the Vetting Form;
  - f. that in order to introduce an effective vetting regime, amendments be made to the relevant legislation to ensure BVI's vetting regime has a sound legal footing; and decided:
    - i. that the Deputy Governor's Office providing drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to make the necessary legal amendments; and that the Vetting Policy and Approach be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.
2. Reviewed and accepted the 2022 Department of Disaster Management annual report in accordance with Part IV Section 10 of the Disaster Management Act, 2003; and noted
- a. the 2022 achievements for the Department of Disaster Management outlined on pages 7 to 12 of the report;
  - b. the ongoing challenges facing the National Disaster Management Programme on pages 12 to 14 of the report; and decided
  - c. that the report be laid on the table at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly in accordance with Part IV Section 10 of the Disaster Management Act, 2003.
3. Considered and approved the Order, entitled Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Fees) Order, 2024; and decided
- a. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Fees) Order, 2024; and

- b. that pursuant to Section 23 (2) of the Mutual Legal Assistance Tax Matters Act, that the Order be made by the Minister of Finance and published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette before being forwarded to the House of Assembly to be laid on the table at the next convenient sitting, and a negative resolution sought to provide for the imposition of an annual fee for the use of the BVI Financial Account Reporting System (the “BVIFARS”).

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 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.

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