

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

24th January, 2024

Cabinet Meeting – 24th January, 2024

His Excellency, the Governor John, J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the meeting held on 24th January, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Decided:

- a. that the Deputy Governor's Office provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the Register of Interests Act and any other relevant legislation to consider:
 - i. the Register of Interests for Members of the House of Assembly to be fully accessible at no cost;
 - ii. including public officers at the level of Heads of Departments, Deputy Secretary and officers in Grades 19 to 21, in the first instance;
 - iii. that the Register for the category of officers listed above should be a private Register, only accessible by the Governor and Deputy Governor;
 - iv. that the Register of Interests Act be amended to allow the Registrar of Interests to forward any matter related to integrity to the Integrity Commission for advice; and
- b. that the Bill be re-submitted to the Cabinet for consideration before submission to the House of Assembly.

2. Reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to six (6) persons who, in accordance with section 16(6) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised) are the spouses of belongers, and who have been living together with their spouses within the Territory for a period not less than five (5) years; and also accepted the recommendation of the Board of Immigration:
 - a. to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to two (2) applicants, who, in the opinion of the Board, have met the legal requirements of Section 16(3) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised); and
 - b. directed that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instructs the Immigration Department to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
3. Reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Residence to fifty-four (54) persons, in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended); did not accept the recommendation of the Board of Immigration to not grant a Certificate of Residence to one person who, in the Board's opinion, had not met the legal requirements of Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised), but instead decided to grant a Certificate of Residence to the person based on the advice from the Attorney General that the recommendation for denial is without any foundation in law; also accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to not grant Certificates of Residence to four (4) applicants, who, in the opinion of the Board, have not met the legal requirements of Section 18 (1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised); and directed that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instruct the Department of Immigration to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
4. Approved one application to hold land in joint Proprietorship in Spooners Estate.
5. Reviewed and accepted the Ministry of Communications and Works' 2022 Annual Report; and decided that it tabled at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly.

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