

CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

3rd March, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 3rd March, 2021, which was held at the Financial Services Commission's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and considered the following Bills and decided that they be introduced for their first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting:
 - a. Bill entitled, Contractor General Act, 2021, which seeks to monitor and, where necessary, investigate the award of contracts with a view to ensuring that they are awarded impartially and without impropriety or irregularity and are implemented as specified in the award, and report the findings of any such investigation to the House of Assembly;
 - b. Bill entitled, Whistleblower Act, 2021, which seeks to make provision for the manner in which individuals may in the public interest disclose information that relates to unlawful or other illegal conduct or corrupt practices of others; to provide for the protection against victimisation of persons who make these disclosures; and to provide for a fund to reward individuals who make the disclosures;
 - c. Bill entitled, Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System (Amendment) Act, 2021, which seeks to amend the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System Act, 2017 (No. 15 of 2017);
 - d. Bill entitled, Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) (Amendment) Act, 2021, which seeks to amend the Economic Substance (Companies and Limited Partnerships) Act, 2018;

- e. Bill entitled, Register of Interests (Amendment) Act, 2021, which seeks to enable the Registrar of Interests to cooperate fully with criminal investigations, orders of a Court and Commissions of Inquiry, while preserving the confidentiality of the Register once its relevance for those purposes has been exhausted; and
 - f. Bill entitled, Stamp (Amendment) Act, 2021, which seeks to extend the economic stimulus in response to the effects of COVID-19 virus and
 - i. approved the extension of COVID-19 Economic Stimulus: Waiver of Stamp Duty on the Sale or Transfer of Property to Belongers from 1st June, 2021 to 31st October, 2021;
 - ii. decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the Bill; and
 - iii. instructed the Financial Secretary to submit a report on the initial "Special Exemptions" on Stamp Duties that ends 31st May, 2021, no later than 30th June, 2021.
2. Reviewed and accepted the recommendation of the Central Tender Board to award Cable & Wireless (BVI) Limited the contract for the Supply and Installation of Islandwide Fibre Network in the amount of four hundred eleven thousand, four hundred forty-five dollars and forty-nine cents (\$411,445.49).
 3. Reviewed and accepted the recommendation of the Central Tenders Board to award Einstein Samuels/Dennis Ricketts *dba* D. E. Property Development the contract for Construction of New Social Home, Fresh Water Pond in the amount of two hundred, twenty-three thousand, four hundred and seventy-one dollars and ninety-three cents (\$223,471.93).
 4. Approved payment of a set monthly allowance to the eligible officers of the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, Her Majesty's Customs and Immigration Department assigned to the Joint Task Force in the amount of four hundred dollars (\$400.00),, notwithstanding officers, who are currently in receipt of any additional allowances.
 5. Granted exceptional approval to waive the tender process to allow the Government of the Virgin Islands to re-engage Mr. John Black, QC for additional legal services rendered to conduct the Appeal, *Kenyatta Boynes v The Queen*, BVIHCRAP 2017/001; and approved the payment in the sum of fifteen thousand dollars (\$US15,000/GBP£10,989.67), which is in addition to the \$96,900.00 approved by Cabinet in 2020 for legal services in relation to the Operation Lucan trial that resulted in the petty contract threshold of \$100,000 being exceeded.

6. Decided that the following persons be appointed to the Festival and Fairs Committee in accordance to Section 6(2) of the Virgin Islands Festivals and Fairs Committee Act, 2005, with effect from 1st January, 2021:
 - a. Mr. Khalid Frett as Chairman to replace the previous Chairman for the unexpired period of his tenure, 26th March, 2022;
 - b. Mrs. Violet de Castro as Vice Chairman until 26th March, 2022;
 - c. Ms. April Glasgow as Public Relations Officer from 1st March, 2021 to 31st December, 2023;
 - d. Messrs. Stuart Donovan, Ottley Hodge and Ms. Harella Georges, representative of Anegada, be reappointed as Members of the Committee with effect from 1st January, 2021 to 31st December, 2023;
 - e. Ms. Delia Jon Baptiste, Mrs. Marieta Headley, Mrs. Luce Hodge-Smith and Mr. Dion Kendall be appointed as Members with effect from 1st March, 2021 for a period of three (3) years; and
 - f. revoked the appointment of Mr. Nicholas Bailey as Treasurer with effect from 28th February, 2021 and decided that Ms. Ishelle Hodge be appointed as Treasurer with effect from 1st March, 2021 for a period of three (3) years.
7. Approved two Non-Belongers land holding licence applications.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 18th March, 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.