

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

### **CABINET DECISION**

14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 at the Premier's Conference Room, Cutlass Tower.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Health and Social Development, who was on duty travel.

Cabinet:

1. Accepted the Financial Investigation Agency's 2021 Annual Report, 2023 Budget Estimates, and 2021 Audited Financial Statements in accordance with the Financial Investigation Agency Act, 2003, section 15(1), and decided that the documents be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at its next convenient Sitting in accordance with the Financial Investigation Agency Act, 2003, section 14(5).
2. Accepted the British Virgin Islands Tourist Board's annual reports and the audited financial statements for 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, and decided that they be tabled in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting in accordance with Section 14 of the Tourist Board Ordinance (CAP 280).
3. Decided to amend its decision made on 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 and approved the renewal of the consultancy contract for Dr. Ricardo Wheatley as the Director of BVI Hong Kong Office Limited for a period of fifteen (15) months commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023.
4. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tender Board (CTB) Technical Evaluation Committee, which was approved by the CTB on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2022; and
  - a. accepted the CTB's recommendation to award Construction Engineering System (B.V.I) Ltd. the contract for the Construction of a New Social Home, Little Harbour #1, Jost Van Dyke in the amount of one hundred and twenty-four thousand, five hundred and thirty-six dollars and fifty cents (\$124,536.50); and

- b. decided that the Ministry of Health and Social Development instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the relevant agreement.
5. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) Technical Evaluation Committee which was approved by the CTB on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2022; and
  - a. accepted the CTB's recommendation to award Karen C. Vanterpool, Loren T. Walwyn & Erma Vanterpool-Butler *dba* ATD (Attention To Detail) Construction, the contract for the Construction of a New Social Home, Sea Cows Bay # 2, on Tortola in the amount of three hundred and twenty-seven thousand, six hundred and twenty-four dollars and seventy-seven cents (\$327,624.77); and
  - b. decided that the Ministry of Health and Social Development instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the relevant agreement.
6. Decided:
  - a. that the Government of the Virgin Islands engage the services of BDO Limited through Single Source Procurement as per Section 8(3)(c)(I) - for proprietary services in accordance with the Public Procurement Act, 2021 (No. 39 of 2021);
  - b. that on-going management services provided by BDO Limited on the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System ("BOSSs") platform, servicing both the Competent Authority ("CA") and Corporate Service Providers ("CSPs") be extended via a new contract for a period of one year (1<sup>st</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023) ("SOW 2023").
  - c. that the Government of the Virgin Islands enter into an agreement with BDO Limited in the amount of one million, ninety-eight thousand, five hundred and five dollars (\$1,098,505) as outlined in the Statement of Works, which is broken down as follows:
    - i. CA Fees - \$185,939 per annum
    - ii. CSP Fees - \$912,566 per annum
  - d. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to review the terms of engagement set out in the draft agreement in accordance with the terms of engagement; and noted
  - e. that the Financial Secretary should arrange for publication of the notice of the award of the contract and for records of the procurement proceedings to be maintained and made available in accordance with the requirement of the Public Procurement Act, 2021.

7. Noted the expiration of Ms. Joycelyn Murraine and Mr. Bevis Sylvester's appointments as Commissioners on 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2022; and
  - a. approved Mr. Wendell M. Gaskin as Commissioner to the Board of the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (TRC) for a period of three (3) years with effect from 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 until 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 in accordance with Section 7 (1) and (2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2006;
  - b. approved Ms. Julia Shamini Y. Chase as Commissioner to the Board of the TRC for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2026 in accordance with Section 7 (1) and (2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2006;
  - c. noted that the TRC will be responsible for the payment of stipends to its Commissioners (Members) of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per month;
  - d. noted that within the coming weeks, the Ministry will issue a Vacancy Notice for Commissioners with a view to being compliant with section 7(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2006 for a qualified person from outside the Virgin Islands, who has a background in telecommunications services; and
  - e. decided that the Ministry of Communications and Works instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the Instruments of Appointment.
8. Approved two Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications, and an encroachment compensation due to a government road-widening project.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cabinet Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Special Meeting on 15th December, 2022, which was held at Premier's Conference Room, Cutlass Tower.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Health and Social Development, who was overseas on duty travel.

Cabinet:

1. Cabinet considered and noted the status of the pending constitutional challenge to have the Courts provide that marriage not between man and woman is void, and agreed that a referendum be conducted to ascertain the public's view on same sex marriage.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Cabinet Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2022**

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David Archer, Jr. chaired the Special Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022, in the absence of Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, who was overseas on annual leave. The Meeting was held at the Save the Seed Energy Centre, Duff's Bottom.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Noted that the Public Finance Management Act of 2012 mandates that a Medium Term Fiscal Plan for the Territory is to be prepared and updated, as a multi-year document and that the 2023-2025 Medium Term Fiscal Plan (MTFP) fulfils the requirement stated in Section 36B)2)(b); and
  - a. noted that by approving the 2023-2025 MTFP of the Government of the Virgin Islands, there will be no breaches in any of the ratios under the Protocols for Effective Financial Management agreed to with the United Kingdom in 2012. Further, noted that the compliance with the ratios despite strained resources, not only indicates the Government of the Virgin Islands' (GoVI) continued commitment to its fiscal responsibilities, but also to debt sustainability;
  - b. reviewed and approved the 2023-2025 MTFP of the GoVI and the outlined debt strategy;
  - c. reviewed and noted the 2021-2023 Macro-Economic Review and Outlook is the accompanying supporting background document for the 2023-2025 MTFP of the GoVI;
  - d. decided that the 2023-2025 MTFP, inclusive of any amendments made by the Cabinet be tabled as the final document at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly; and
  - e. agreed that the approved 2023-2025 MTFP be submitted to the Minister of the Overseas Territories, as a matter of priority.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022.**

**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.

**###**