

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

17th, 19th and 24th August, 2022

Cabinet Meeting – 17th August, 2022

His Excellency, the Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held at the Financial Services Commission's Resource Centre on 17th August, 2022.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Premier and Minister of Finance, and Minister of Health and Social Development, who were overseas on official travel.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the updated progress report, as of June 2022 (presented at the annual meeting of the National Disaster Management Council) on the Virgin Islands Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategic Plan 2019 – 2025, which was approved by Cabinet on 18th November, 2020.
2. Approved the transfer of all monetary resources relating to training of Public Officers to the Department of Human Resources in line with Recommendation B37 in the Framework for Implementation of the Recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry and Other reforms for the Department to coordinate expenditure on the training of public officers; decided that the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force and the Ministry of Education – Teaching Services retain control of their training budget, considering the uniqueness of those offices; and decided that the Department of Human Resources establish the necessary procedures, systems, and guidelines that ministries and departments will utilise to access the training funds.
3. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Proceeds of Criminal Conduct (Amendment) Act, 2022, which seeks to amend Section 26B of the Act to include members who were inadvertently excluded from the National Anti-money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Coordinating Council membership listing; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.

4. Decided:

- a. that the Technical Review Committee should be established as a standing committee under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour to assist the Cabinet of the Virgin Islands in making informed decisions in relation to the sustainable use and development of the seabed, Crown lands and beaches;
- b. that the composition of the committee shall be comprised of the following:
 - i. Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour;
 - ii. Land and Survey Department;
 - iii. Department of Agriculture and Fisheries;
 - iv. Department of Disaster Management;
 - v. Virgin Islands Shipping Registry;
 - vi. British Virgin Islands Ports Authority;
 - vii. National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands;
 - viii. Environmental Health Division;
 - ix. Virgin Islands Fire and Rescue Service;
 - x. Department of Trade, Investment Promotion and Consumer Affairs;
 - xi. Royal Virgin Islands Police Force; and
 - xii. Town and Country Planning Department.
- c. noted that the work and functioning of the Committee, initially identified by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour as needed reform for effective land management, should take account of the wholesale review of processes for the disposal of Crown Land conducted in accordance with the Framework for the Implementation of the Commission of Inquiry Report recommendation B30.

5. Approved seven Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 19th August, 2022

His Excellency, the Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Special Meeting held at the Premier's Conference Room on 19th August, 2022.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Premier and Minister of Finance, who was overseas on official travel.

Cabinet considered and approved the Anti-money Laundering (Amendment) Regulations, 2022, which seek to clarify existing provisions of the Regulations, standardise the legislation with the requirements of the recommendations, as well as other legislation within the jurisdiction's AML/CFT framework and address any identified deficiencies; and decided that the Regulations, be published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette and thereafter be laid on the table of the House of Assembly in accordance with Standing Order 14(3) of the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly.

Cabinet Meeting – 24th August, 2022

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David Archer, Jr. chaired the Meeting held on 24th August 2022, in the absence of Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, who was overseas on annual leave. The Meeting was held at the Financial Services Commission's Resource Centre.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Approved the amendment to the Second Schedule of the Magistrate's Code of Procedure, Chapter 44 of the Law of the Virgin Islands; and decided that the Deputy Governor's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to make the requisite amendments and thereafter re-submit for Cabinet's consideration.
2. Considered and decided to reduce the penalty charges for failure to develop the property with respect to a Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence.
3. Considered and decided that approval should be granted for a reduction of the outstanding penalty charges and decided that an extension of time of two (2) years, from the date of the letter of approval, be granted to the applicants to complete a reclamation project.
4. Received and endorsed the Ministerial Transformation Plan for Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour in line with the Public Service Transformation Programme priorities and endorsed the top five (5) initiatives.
5. Noted the pending constitutional challenge, which seeks to have the Court declare section 13(1)(c) of the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act, 1995 ("MP&PA") unconstitutional, null and void, and that the said section 13(1)(c) provides that marriage not between man and woman is void.

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