

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

22nd and 27th October, 2021

3rd November, 2021

Cabinet Meeting – 22nd October, 2021

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Virtual Meeting held on 22nd October, 2021.

All Members were present.

The Cabinet:

1. Noted the contents of the Memorandum of Understanding on Capacity Building Initiative for the Governor’s Group and the benefits to the Public Service.
2. Approved four Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 27th October, 2021

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer, Jr., chaired the Meeting held on 27th October, 2021, in the absence of Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, who was overseas on private business. The Meeting was held at the Financial Services Commission’s Conference Room.

All Members were present, except the Attorney General, who was on annual leave.

The Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Public Holidays (Amendment) Act, 2021 and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first and subsequent readings at the next convenient Sitting.

2. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) technical committee, which was approved by the CTB on 28th September, 2021; accepted the CTB's recommendation to award Island Services (BVI) Ltd. the contract for the Supply and Installation of Furniture for the Vanterpool and Flax Buildings, Virgin Gorda in the amount of one hundred and ninety-four thousand, seven hundred and one dollars and two cents (USD \$194,701.02).
3. Received and considered the Financial Services Commission's (FSC) 2020 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements; 2022 Strategic Work Plan; 2022 Revenue and Expenditure Budget and External Commissioner's Report, and
 - a. approved the 2022 Budget and Work Plan pursuant to section 24 of the Financial Services Commission Act, 2001, and decided that the reports referred be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
4. Approved an application to use the seabed for dredging (removal of accumulated silt obstructing dock access) and beach reclamation at Manual Reef, subject to the following conditions:
 - i. the applicant must secure permission from the Planning Authority for the development of the project;
 - ii. an environmental fee of two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) be paid to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration before the commencement of the project;
 - iii. the dredging shall only be conducted in the seabed area as marked out on the map and the spoil should be used as part of the reclamation;
 - iv. acceptable and good environmental practices must be undertaken during and after the dredging and drainage as follows: during dredging and drainage, turbidity curtains must be deployed to surround the work area at all times of active work and the curtain depths shall be more than fifty percent (50%) of the water's depth (at least 7 feet deep in the dredge site). In addition, there should be a 25-meter buffer between the reef and the area proposed to be dredged;
 - v. the applicant is granted six (6) months to dredge no more than twenty-five thousand (25,000) cubic feet (ft³) of sand from the seabed. Monthly records of the sand dredged must be submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration;
 - vi. the dredging activities shall cease when the twenty-five thousand (25,000) cubic feet (ft³) of sand is dredged from the seabed, even if this is sooner than six (6) months;

- vii. sand may be layered in phases to allow ground species to adjust to changes in their environment;
- viii. an oil spill contingency plan should be implemented in the event of any visible oil, fuel or chemicals from the work vessel;
- ix. the applicant must inform the Ministry in writing of the day, month and year when the project is completed;
- x. upon completion of the project, the Survey Department will conduct a survey of the beach created and the jetty to determine fees due to the Crown; and
- xi. the applicant enters into a lease agreement for the beach, and a licence agreement for the jetty.

Cabinet Meeting – 3rd November, 2021

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

All Members were present, except the Attorney General, who was on annual leave.

The Cabinet:

1. Approved the exemption of duty for Mr. Arringdell Creque *dba* "Agri-Paradise VG Ltd.", for the importation of shade cloth valued at one thousand, four hundred and twenty-six dollars and thirty-two cents (\$1,426.32) in accordance with Section 54(3) of the Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010, as amended, and enumerated in Schedule 5 Paragraph 13(4)(l)(xii) maintenance equipment - shade cloth; and noted that Mr. Creque is a registered farmer and in the business of agriculture in accordance with Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010 as amended, Schedule 5, Paragraph 13(1).
2. Approved that eight (8) applicants be granted scholarships and also granted permission for the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth Affairs, Fisheries and Agriculture to access the Miscellaneous Purposes Fund of the Financing and Money Service (Amendment), Act, 2022 in the amount of four hundred and six thousand dollars (\$406,000) to fund scholarships for these applicants for the 2021/2022 academic year, and provide financial assistance for educational grants to fourteen (14) students.

3. Approved three Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

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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.