

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

28<sup>th</sup> December, 2023

17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024

### **Cabinet Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

His Excellency, the Governor John, J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, who was away on private business.

Cabinet:

1. Noted:

- a. the final report titled, "Final Compensation Review Report" to include information requested by the Cabinet related to: percent increase of salaries for the House of Assembly Members; comparator data from countries without their names; comparator data for SOEs; and narrative around the cost of living in the other Overseas Territories that were used as comparators and how this can impact on the data, considering the cost of living differences;
- b. the final project close report;
- c. the report that provides a summary of the consultations held with Ministries and Departments, to present and describe the new salary structure and the outcomes of the project; and decided
- d. that noting the conclusion of the consultative phase with the Public Service, that the Report now be laid in the House of Assembly in accordance.

2. Decided:

- a. that the Virgin Islands Festival and Fairs Committee be dissolved, the principal act repealed (Virgin Islands Festival and Fairs Committee No. 4 of 2005) and the committee's functions be transferred to the BVI Tourist Board, noting that an amendment to Section 8 of the Tourist Board Ordinance Cap. 280 will be required;
- b. that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the Tourist Board Act, Cap 280 to empower it to undertake the functions of the Virgin Islands Festivals and Fairs Committee;
- c. that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the Virgin Islands Festivals and Fairs Act, No. 4 of 2015;
- d. that the remaining assets in the VI Festival and Fairs Fund be transferred to the BVI Tourist Board; and
- e. that in accordance with section 7 of the Virgin Islands Festival and Fairs Committee Act 2005, the members of the committee shall be paid stipends based on a rate of Chairman \$1000 per month; Deputy Chairman \$800.00 per month and Members \$500.00 per month, covering the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2023.

3. Approved one application for permission to use the seabed for the installation of a T-shaped Floating Jet Dock at North Bay, Mosquito Island.

4. Decided:

- a. that the Government of the Virgin Islands will subsidise half of the fuel surcharge for the electricity bills of all domestic consumers in December 2023, which will amount to approximately four hundred and ninety-two thousand dollars (\$492,000.00); and
- b. that when the final cost is reconciled in January 2024, if the actual cost exceeds the estimated amount in decision item (a), the government will cover the difference; however, if the actual cost is lower than the estimated amount, the BVI Electricity Corporation will reimburse the difference.

5. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System (Amendment) Act, 2023, which seeks to amend the Beneficial Ownership Secure Search System Act, Revised Edition 2020; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.

6. Decided:

- a. that the Schedule to the Labour Code (Work Permit Exemption) Order, No. 41 of 2017 be amended to expand the categories of persons exempt from work permit to include persons providing:
  - i. emergency and humanitarian services to BVI-registered businesses, statutory bodies, non-profit organisations, and other entities, including emergency response, medical, fire, and rescue services;
  - ii. repairs to machinery or equipment that are essential for the safe and uninterrupted operation of a business or facility where the necessary expertise is not available in the Virgin Islands;
  - iii. recreational or entertainment services at events sponsored or hosted by the government, statutory bodies, or non-profit organisations.
- b. that any BVI-registered entity utilising any category mentioned in this Order must notify the Chief Immigration Officer of the arrival of an exempted person at least 48 hours in advance, or, in the case of an emergency, prior to departure from the port of embarkation;
- c. that the corresponding period of exemption for all categories mentioned in paragraph 'a.' be stipulated as seven (7) days in the first instance with extensions based on a request for extension; and
- d. that the Ministry of Financial Services, Labour and Trade instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the necessary amendment.

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**Cabinet Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024**

His Excellency, the Governor John, J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and accepted the 2022 Magistracy's Annual Report; and decided that the Report be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.

2. Reviewed and accepted the 2022 Annual Report of the Civil Registry and Passport Office; and decided that the Report be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
3. Reviewed and accepted the 2021 Annual Report for the Register of Interests; and decided that the Report be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
4. Reviewed the application received by Island Optique Ltd. for the renewal of its pioneer status under the First Schedule of the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance (Cap. 297); decided to amend pioneer status to Island Optique Ltd. granted on 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 for a period of five (5) years effective 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 and ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2026; in accordance with Section 3 of the Pioneer Services and Enterprises Ordinance (Cap. 297) by approving the list of items provided; and decided that the Premier's Office shall instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the Order.
5. Approved two applications to hold land in joint proprietorship.
6. Decided that Mr. Jamal Smith be appointed as Pro Tem Chairman of the Labour Arbitration Tribunal for a period of two (2) months commencing 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023 to manage the arbitration of disputes and that remuneration in the sum of two thousand, five hundred dollars (\$2,500.00) is paid monthly.
7. Approved:
  - a. the appointment of the following persons to the Non-Profit Organisations Registration Board in accordance with section 3(2)(c) and 3(2)(e) respectively, of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2012 for a period of three (3) years with effect from 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2023 until 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2026:
    - i. Mrs. Stacyann Shaw Goodridge, member; and
    - ii. Ms. Taniese Clarke, member;
  - b. the re-appointment of Mr. Marvin Grant, to serve as a member of the Non-Profit Organisation Registration Board in accordance with section 3(2)(a) of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2012 for a period of three (3) years with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 until 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2026; and
  - c. noted that the members will receive stipendiary compensation at the rate of two hundred and dollars (\$250).

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2024.**

**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.
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6. Cabinet decisions will be also available on [bvi.gov.vg](http://bvi.gov.vg) and on Twitter.

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