

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

28th June, 7th and 12th July, 2023

Cabinet Meeting – 28th June, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 28th June, 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 on official duties (graduations).

Cabinet:

1. Introduced and approved an exemption from the fee that would usually accompany an application for British Overseas Territories Citizenship (BOTC) for applicants applying under routes where entitlement to registration would have been automatic but for historical unfairness; and approved
 - a. the increase in fees for nationality services amended as follows:
 - i. Application for Registration of a minor as a BOTC - \$350.00;
 - ii. Application for Registration of an Adult as a BOTC - \$500.00;
 - iii. Application for Naturalisation as a BOTC - \$750.00;
 - iv. Status letter - \$100.00; and
 - v. Filing fee (non-refundable) to remain at \$0; and noted
 - b. that the fees should be kept under regular review; and
 - c. supported a public communications strategy to communicate these changes.

2. Reviewed and approved the Bill entitled, Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Amendment) Act, 2023, which seeks to amend the Magistrate's Code of Procedure Act, Revised Edition, 2013 to provide for an increase in fees payable in respect of summary proceedings; and approved that the Bill be introduced for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
3. Decided that subject to the approval of the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, that the proposal for four (4) coins, Paris Olympics 2024 Series be minted by Pobjoy Mint Ltd., in accordance with the five (5) year agreement between Pobjoy Mint Ltd. and the Government of the Virgin Islands.
4. Noted the purpose and objectives of the proposed trade mission to Guyana, which is being led by the Ministry of Financial Services, Labour, and Trade.
5. Approved six (6) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 7th July, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 7th July, 2023 at the Ministry of Finance's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved Schedule of Additional Provisions No. 2 of 2023 and the draft Resolution of the House of Assembly; decided that the Financial Secretary instruct the Attorney General to vet and finalise the draft Resolution; and decided that the final Resolution and Schedule of Additional Provisions No. 2 of 2023 be submitted to the House of Assembly to be laid before the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
2. Considered and retroactively approved the award of a contract for eighty-four thousand, four hundred and eight dollars (\$84,408.00) per annum between Ms. Susan Eastoe and the Government of the Virgin Islands with effect from 26th April, 2023 for a period not exceeding four (4) years payable upon the submission of quarterly reports to the Permanent Secretary, in accordance with the terms previously approved by the Cabinet for the appointment of Special Advisers; and decided that the Ministry of Financial Services, Labour and Trade instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the contract before it is signed.

3. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) (Amendment), 2023 which thus repeals subsections (2a) through (2f) of Clause 3 of the Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) (Amendment) Act, 2021; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.

Cabinet Meeting – 12th July, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 12th July, 2023 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and accepted the Evaluation Report submitted by the Central Tenders Board Technical Committee, which was approved by the Central Tenders Board (CTB) on 11th July, 2023; and accepted
 - a. the recommendation of the CTB to enter into framework agreements with candidates named for the Legal Services Panel for the Government of the Virgin Islands with agreed maximum rates with the Government. The candidates will be registered on the panel for an initial period to two (2) years, with the possibility of an extension; and decided
 - b. that the maximum rates payable be as follows: Legislative drafting and consultancy services be capped at a maximum rate of \$300 per day; and for Other Services be capped at a maximum rate of \$175 per hour; and
 - c. that the Attorney General's Chambers vet the relevant framework agreements.
2. Noted the Evaluation Report submitted by the CTB Technical Committee, which was approved by the CTB on 2nd May, 2023; and accepted
 - a. the recommendation of the CTB to award ENATURA LLC Engineering Services Int'l Inc. a contract to Supply and Deliver Precast Concrete Sewer Manholes and Pump Station Wet Wells Structures for the East End / Long Look Sewerage Project in the amount of seven hundred and ninety-one thousand, two hundred and ninety-two dollars (\$791,292.00); and decided
 - b. that the Ministry of Communications and Works instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the relevant agreement.

3. Approved four (4) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 20th July, 2023.

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.

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