

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISION

3rd, 15th and 22nd February, 2023

Cabinet Meeting – 3rd February, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 3rd February, 2023 at the Premier's Conference Room, Cutlass Tower.

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

Cabinet:

1. Noted the receipt of the Auditor General's Special Report on the Examination of Public Contracts issued to Claude Skelton Cline (*dba* Grace Consulting and Grace Center) from 25th March, 2019 to 17th September, 2021; and that it will be laid before the House of Assembly.
2. Noted the contents of the Public Service Management Code, which is pursuant to Recommendation B36 of the Commission of Inquiry Report and the Framework for Implementation of the Recommendation of the Commission of Inquiry Report and other Reforms.
3. Noted that Mrs. Oleanvine Maynard's contract as Managing Director of the BVI Ports Authority was terminated on 6th July, 2022 and was communicated to her via a letter, dated 20th December, 2022; and decided that Mr. Dean Fahie be:
 - a. appointed as the Deputy Managing Director of the BVI Ports Authority, in accordance with Section 20 (1) of the BVI Ports Authority Act, 1990, with retroactive effect from 29th April, 2022 for one (1) year or until the application process for a Deputy Managing Director is completed and a suitable candidate is selected for the position;
 - b. compensated for carrying out the duties of the Managing Director in the absence of a Managing Director at the Authority for the period of 29th April, 2022 to 6th July, 2022 pursuant to Section 20 (4) of the BVI Ports Authority Act, 1990.

4. Approved two Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 15th February, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 15th February, 2023 at the Premier's Conference Room, Cutlass Tower.

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

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed the Flood Risk Management Policy, which establishes a framework for effective integrated flood risk management for the Virgin Islands; and endorsed and approved the policy for implementation and use in the Territory.
2. Decided that the approved list of agreed amendments set out as Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of the Elections Act be prioritised taking into consideration the time needed to implement the changes.
3. Noted the receipt by the Governor of the Audit Report on the Assistance Grants Programmes (January 2019 - May 2022); and that a redacted copy of the Report is to be laid before the House of Assembly.
4. Decided that the BVI Financial Services Commission continue to be charged with oversight responsibilities associated with the operations of the BVI International Arbitration Centre (the "BVI IAC") from 18th September, 2022 to 31st December, 2026; and
 - a. that twelve (12) months prior to the end of the incubation period, that the Ministry of Finance direct that the FSC prepare and submit to the Government of the Virgin Islands, for onward transmission to the Cabinet, a paper outlining how the BVI IAC would be transitioned to and brought under direct Government oversight at the end of the incubation period, to ensure its continued functioning.
5. Decided to pay eligible public officers performance year increments, with arrears, for 2018 and 2019 to commence immediately and be substantially completed by end of the second quarter of 2023; and

- a. decided to pay eligible officers performance year increments for 2020, 2021 and 2022, without arrears, initially, and be substantially completed by the end of the third quarter of 2023, and in cases where officers are on the top of their salary scales, they will be paid a one-off payment the equivalent of the incremental value; and
 - b. noted that as a result of decision items above, eligible public officers at the end of the entire processing period will receive the payment of two (2) full increments (2018 & 2019) and see a change in their salary levels by five (5) incremental steps.
6. Noted that Mr. Leroy A. E. Abraham has retired from the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation, with effect from 31st December, 2022 after 21 years as General Manager and 35 years of dedicated service as an employee; and decided that:
- a. Ms. Symorne Penn, Deputy General Manager, be granted an acting appointment in the post of General Manager for a period of three (3) months until the recruitment process for the post of General Manager is completed, in accordance with Part IV Section 11 (2) of the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation Ordinance (Cap 277);
7. Approved one Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence Application.

Cabinet Meeting – 22nd February, 2023

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David Archer, Jr., chaired the Meeting held on 22nd February, 2023, in the absence of Governor John J. Rankin, CMG, who was overseas on annual leave. The Meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room, Cutlass Tower.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Communications and Works, who was overseas on duty travel.

Cabinet:

- 1. Reviewed and approved the Protocol for the Appointment and Removal of Statutory Board Members - COI Recommendations B28.

2. Approved the Virgin Islands Deposit Insurance Regulations, 2023, which seek to support the enabling provisions in the Virgin Islands Deposit Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2023; and that the Regulations be published in the Official Gazette of the Virgin Islands and thereafter laid on the table in the House of Assembly.
3. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Virgin Islands Deposit Insurance (Amendment) Act, 2023, which largely reflects the alignment of deposit insurer and resolution authority mandates for the Virgin Islands Deposit Insurance Corporation; and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 30th March, 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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