

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present with the exception of the Minister for Health and Social Development, Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, and the Attorney General, who were overseas on official business. Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Report, and Outstanding Recommendations.
2. Approved the Government of the Virgin Islands' contribution of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) each to the relief funds for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada in accordance with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Instrument of Accession.
3. Approved an application to use the seabed for the installation of commercial mooring buoys at Little Harbour, Jost Van Dyke by Garner Bay Holding Ltd.
4. Approved the Resolution and Schedule of Additional Provisions No. 4 of 2023; and decided that that the Resolution requesting the following be introduced, by way of a motion, for approval at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly:
  - i. recurrent expenditure of nine million, four hundred seventy-one thousand, nine hundred and thirty-seven dollars (\$9,471,937.00) are to be expended in variation of the appropriated amount;
  - ii. capital acquisition expenditure of twelve thousand, nine hundred and fourteen dollars (\$12,914.00) are to be expended in variation of the appropriated amount; and
  - iii. capital expenditure of sixteen dollars (\$16.00) are to be expended in variation of the appropriated amount.

5. Decided:

- a. to rescind the Cabinet Decision of Memo No. 6/2021, “Bill entitled, Environmental Protection and Tourism Improvement (Amendment) Act, 2020” and approved the revised Environmental Protection and Tourism Improvement Fund Regulations, 2024 to ensure full conformity with the existing Act to allow the Regulations to take effect;
- b. that the 2024 Regulations be published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette and thereafter laid on the table in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting; and
- c. that the Financial Secretary request publishing in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette, no later than 31st October, 2024, the first quarterly statement of account detailing monies that have been collected pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of the Act, cumulatively from the inception of the Levy to the quarter ending 30th September, 2024.

6. Approved:

- a. the appointments of Mrs. Annetta Penn as member and chairperson, and Dr. Paul A. Ricketts, as member and deputy chairperson to the Public Assistance Appeal Board, in accordance with Sections 30(2) and (3) of the Public Assistance Act, 2013 for a period of three (3) years effective 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 until 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2027; and
- b. the appointments of Ms. Shayla Springette, Ms. Da-Ana Samuel and Mr. Nicoy D. Hendrickson to the Public Assistance Appeal Board in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Public Assistance Act, 2013 for a period of three (3) years effective 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 until 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2027.

7. Approved four (4) Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence applications.

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**Cabinet Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2024, at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Health and Social Development, who was overseas on official business.

Cabinet:

1. Decided:

- a. that in accordance with Section 5 of the Public Holidays Act, as amended, that the Governor issue a proclamation that:
    - i. the day Monday, 3rd March, 2025 be appointed as the public holiday commemorating the anniversary of the birth of Hamilton Lavity Stoutt; and
    - ii. the day Friday, 13th June, 2025 be appointed to be observed as the Sovereign's birthday; and noted
      1. the following list of public and common law holidays to be celebrated in the year 2025:
        - a. Wednesday, 1st January - New Year's Day
        - b. Monday, 3rd March - The Anniversary of the Birth of Hamilton Lavity Stoutt (In lieu of Friday, 7th March)
        - c. Friday, 18th April - Good Friday
        - d. Monday, 21st April - Easter Monday
        - e. Monday, 9th June - Whit Monday
        - f. Friday, 13th June - Sovereign's Birthday (to be confirmed)
        - g. Monday, 7th July - Virgin Islands Day
        - h. Monday, 4th August - Emancipation Monday
        - i. Tuesday, 5th August - Emancipation Tuesday
        - j. Wednesday, 6th August - Emancipation Wednesday
        - k. Monday, 20th October - Heroes and Forefathers Day
        - l. Monday, 24th November - Commemoration of the Great March of 1949 and the Restoration of the Legislative Council
        - m. Thursday, 25th December - Christmas Day
        - n. Friday, 26th December - Boxing Day
  - b. that the final and full list of public and common law holidays for 2025 listed above be published, once the Governor makes the aforementioned proclamations.
2. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry outstanding recommendations.
  3. Considered and approved the BVI Business Companies (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2024, which empowers the Financial Services Commission to grant extension(s) of time for companies filing the first annual financial returns; and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient sitting.

4. Approved one (1) Non-Belonger Land Holding Licence application and an application for a subdivision of land.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025.**

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

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