

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

5th, 11th, and 18th October, 2023

Cabinet Meeting – 5th October, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor John, J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the meeting held on 5th October, 2023, which was held at the Premier's Conference Room.

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

Cabinet:

1. Decided:

a. that the Governor issues a proclamation that:

- i. the day Monday, 4th March, 2024 be appointed as the public holiday commemorating the anniversary of the birth of Hamilton Lavity Stoutt; and
- ii. subject to confirmation, the day Friday, 14th June, 2024 be appointed to be kept as the Sovereign's birthday;

b. reviewed and accepted the list of public and common law holidays to be celebrated in the year 2024:

- i. Monday, 1st January - New Year's Day
- ii. Monday, 4th March - The Anniversary of the Birth of (in lieu of Thursday, 7th March) Hamilton Lavity Stoutt
- iii. Friday, 29th March - Good Friday
- iv. Monday, 1st April - Easter Monday
- v. Monday, 20th May - Whit Monday
- vi. Friday, 14th June - Sovereign's Birthday (to be confirmed)
- vii. Monday 1st July - Virgin Islands Day
- viii. Monday, 5th August - Emancipation Monday
- ix. Tuesday, 6th August - Emancipation Tuesday
- x. Wednesday, 7th August - Emancipation Wednesday
- xi. Monday 21st October - Heroes and Foreparents Day

- xii. Monday, 27th November - Commemoration of the Great March of 1949 and the Restoration of the Legislative Council
 - xiii. Wednesday, 25th December - Christmas Day
 - xiv. Thursday, 26th December - Boxing Day
- c. decided that the final and full list of public and common law holidays for 2024 listed above be published, once the Governor makes the aforementioned proclamations; and
2. Decided that Mr. Akeem Pickering be appointed as the Managing Director of BVI Ports Authority for a period of two (2) years as per the BVI Ports Authority Board's Resolution No. 30 of 2023; and approved that he be remunerated at the following rate in accordance with the BVI Ports Authority Board's Resolution No. 30 of 2023:
- i. Annual Salary: \$108,000.00
 - ii. Travel Allowance: \$2,400.0 per annum
 - iii. Entertainment Allowance: \$2,400.00 per annum
 - iv. Medical Insurance: \$115.00 per month
 - v. Vacation Days: 36 per annum
 - vi. A BVI Ports Authority assigned vehicle
3. Approved four (4) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence application.

Cabinet Meeting – 11th October, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor John, J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the meeting held on 11th October, 2023, which was held at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, who was overseas on official business, and also the Minister for Health and Social Development, who was chairing the 9th Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Council of Ministers of Health being held in the Territory.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the summarised list of priority training needs for the Public Service identified for the period covering 2024 to 2025, which will guide the training programmes to be facilitated through the Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute under the following broad categories:

- i. Immediate training needs;
- ii. Long-term skill enhancement;
- iii. Compliance and regulatory training;
- iv. Soft skills development;
- v. Specialised training; and
- vi. Cross-training opportunities.

2. Approved:

- a. the following criteria to be used to designate the first class - historical tier of National Heroes' of the Virgin Islands:
 - i. Actions taken by individual which must have provided leadership and/or catalyst to a collective, historical movement in the Virgin Islands, key defining moments or events in the life story or history of the Virgin Islands for the cause of humanity, universal liberty or freedom, social justice or self-determination. These collective movements and events would have led to a shift or change in the trajectory of the growth and development of the Virgin Islands;
 - ii. Actions taken by individual which must have carried or magnified the voice of the people of the Virgin Islands, so that the individual gave voice to the collective, historical movement carrying out the will of the people;
 - iii. Actions taken by individual which must have required a demonstration of significant courage in the face of adversity, pain and self-sacrifice.
- b. decided that the following persons be recognised as the first class - historical tier of National Heroes' of the Virgin Islands:
 - i. Mr. Shelly Martin
 - ii. Ms. Perreen Georges
 - iii. Mr. Augustus McCleverty
 - iv. Mr. Obadiah Dawson
 - v. Mr. Henry Garnet
 - vi. Mr. Theodolph Faulkner
 - vii. Mr. Glanville Fonseca
 - viii. Mr. Carlton de Castro
 - ix. Mr. H. Lavity Stoutt
 - x. Mr. Noel Lloyd

- c. decided that the next and succeeding national heroes satisfy the following criteria:
 - i. has made a significant and lasting contribution to the Virgin Islands;
 - ii. has enriched the lives of others;
 - iii. has a legacy that will stand the test of time and have continued relevance in the future;
 - iv. has contributed to the quality of life and destiny of the Virgin Islands;
 - v. be considered as outstanding in their area of activity (once selected from any area, e.g. from the medical, education or political field);
 - vi. has ready name recognition among the general population;
 - vii. is recognised by his/her profession or organisation;
 - viii. is reflective of the Virgin Islands' cultural heritage and diversity; and
 - ix. he or she has recognition among the general population

- d. approved the proposed means for honouring National Heroes, namely:
 - i. declaration of a National Heroes Park/area and erection of busts/plaques in the designated area;
 - ii. development of educational material on the national heroes which can be taught in schools in the Territory;
 - iii. development of publications which can be disseminated to members of the public;
 - iv. creation of documentaries/exhibitions/other communication strategies to educate the public on the national heroes;
 - v. presentation of token, e.g. plaque to the living descendants of the national heroes;
 - vi. display of photos/paintings/drawings/illustrations or depiction of national heroes at the airport and other ports of entry, e.g. in a mural form
 - vii. creation of merchandise in honour of national heroes, e.g. mugs, t-shirts, caps etc.

- e. Decided:
 - i. that a resolution be laid and debated in the House of Assembly to declare the first class of National Heroes of the Virgin Islands;
 - ii. that the Premier's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare a resolution to declare the first class of National Heroes of the Virgin Islands to be tabled at the next Sitting of the House of Assembly;

- iii. that national heroes be designated every five (5) years and that persons be designated for recognition during the ensuing years based on categories identified and approved by Cabinet, following a nomination process; and noted
- iv. that in commemoration of 80 years of Secondary Education in the Virgin Islands, educators who are 80 and older will be recognised at a ceremony in their honour as part of this year's observance of Heroes and Foreparents' Day.

3. Approved the Implementation Plan for the COI Recommendations, subject to:

- a. amendment, in agreement with the UK Government, of the language of Recommendation A4 of the Framework for Implementation of the Recommendations to state that "The Governor establishes one or more independent unit(s) to conduct investigations, the results of which the Governor will then forward as appropriate to the Attorney General and the Director of Public Prosecutions to facilitate the taking of steps to secure money, land or other assets pending criminal and/or civil confiscation and/or recovery proceedings. They should be responsible for civil recovery"; and
- b. amendment of the language in Action Item A04.03 of the Implementation Plan to reflect the amended language referenced under Recommendation A4 of the Framework.

Cabinet Meeting – 18th October, 2023

His Excellency, the Governor John, J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the meeting held on 18th October, 2023, which was held at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Attorney General, who was overseas on official business. The Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

- 1. reviewed and approved the Deputy Governor's Office's 2022 annual report and decide that it be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.

2. reviewed and approved the Civil Registry and Passport Office's 2021 annual report; and decided that it be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
3. Reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Immigration in respect of applicants for Certificates of Residence; accepted the recommendations of the Board to grant Certificates of Residence to eighty-nine (89) persons, in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended); accepted the recommendations of the Board for endorsement of a minor in accordance with Section 18 (2) of the Immigration and Passport Ordinance; and directed that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instruct the Department of Immigration to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
4. Decided, in principle, that four (4) Stamps to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III be issued in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Stamps Act (CAP 212); noted that approval of the designs will be sought from Buckingham Palace, via the Royal Household Section (RHS) in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), following approval by Cabinet; and decided:
 - a. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet and finalise the draft Stamps (Coronation of King Charles III) Order, 2023; and
 - b. that the finalised Order be published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette and thereafter be laid in the House of Assembly at its earliest convenience.
5. Noted the expiration of Mr. Michael Matthews's appointment as BVI Ports Authority Board Member on 28th August, 2023; approved Mr. Matthews' re-appointment as Board Member for two (2) years effective 15th September, 2023 until 14th September, 2025 by Section 1(1)(b) of the First Schedule of the BVI Ports Authority Act, 1990; noted that the member will be paid \$900.00 per month or, if re-appointed as Deputy Chair, fifteen hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per month; and decided that the Ministry of Communications and Works instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the Instrument of Appointment.

Published by the Cabinet Office on 30th October, 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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