

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

His Excellency, the Acting Governor Mr. David D. Archer Jr., chaired the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2024, in the absence of Governor Daniel Pruce, who was overseas on official business. The meeting was held at the Premier's Conference Room.

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

Cabinet:

1. Received and accepted the Progress Report from the Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute and noted the progress being made by the Virgin Islands Public Service Learning Institute.
2. Noted:
  - a. the receipt, by the Governor, of the Auditor General's report on the Government's stimulus programme for Religious Organisations, Civic Groups, Daycares and Private Schools;
  - b. the receipt by the Governor, of the addendum to the Auditor General's report on the Government's stimulus programme for Religious Organisations, Civic Groups, Daycares and Private Schools that was launched as a part of the COVID-19 recovery initiative; and
  - c. that a copy of the audit report and addendum are to be laid on the table at the next convenient sitting of the House of Assembly in accordance with Section 20 of the Audit Act, 2023.
3. Approved the Policy on the Appointment of Labour Inspectors in the Virgin Islands; and decided that the Ministry of Financial Services, Labour, and Trade provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to draft regulations and validating legislation, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 12, 13, 14 and 186 of the Labour Code 2010, for the implementation of this Policy.

4. Considered and approved a Civil Mitigation Policy to provide a transparent, streamlined process for the assessment and approval of the implementation of projects within districts across the Virgin Islands; reviewed and approved the draft application form for Implementation of Civil Mitigation Projects to streamline the application process for enhanced transparency and accountability.
5. Noted:
  - a. that in accordance with the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding Re: Legal Aid between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the BVI BAR Association, the following persons have been appointed to the Legal Aid Board for a period of two (2) years, effective 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2026:
    - i. Mrs. Ingrid A. Moses-Scatliffe, representing a member of the public in good standing with the community;
    - ii. Ms. Susan V. Demers, representing the first Private Sector Attorney and Bar Association Appointee; and
    - iii. Mr. Timothy de Swardt, representing the second Private Sector Attorney and Bar Association Appointee; and
  - b. that the Registrar of the High Court and the Chief Social Development Officer are appointed as ex-officio members of the Board; and
  - c. that there is no financial remuneration is provided to members of the Legal Aid Board.

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### **Cabinet Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

1. Approved the review of Section 175(3) of the Public Finance Management Regulations, 2005, with a view to repeal or amend, as deemed necessary, to eliminate the potential for abuse of discretionary powers and to enhance the regulatory framework governing public financial management; decided that the Ministry of Finance provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the necessary legislative amendments; and decided that the amended Public Finance Management Regulations be re-submitted to Cabinet for

consideration, and thereafter published in the Official Gazette of the Virgin Islands before being laid in the House of Assembly by an affirmative resolution in accordance with section 44 of the Public Management Act, 2004.

2. Approved:

a. the re-appointment of the following persons to the Parole Board in accordance with Section 4(2)(a) and 4(4) of the Parole Act, 2009 for a period of three (3) years with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 until 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2027:

- i. Mrs. Kya Huggins Mckenzie;
- ii. Dr. Thomas Alexander; and
- iii. Ms. Shaunice Leonard;

b. the appointment of Mrs. Kya Huggins Mckenzie to serve as Chairperson of the Parole Board in accordance with Section 4(2)(b) of the Parole Act, 2009 for a period of three (3) years with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 until 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2027;

c. the appointment of the following persons to the Parole Board in accordance with Section 4(2)(a) of the Parole Act, 2009 for a period of two (2) years with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 until 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2026:

- i. Ms. Da-Ana Sammuel;
- ii. Mr. Daniel Rogers;
- iii. Mr. Dane Robin; and
- iv. Ms. Annjel Flax

3. Noted:

a. that the Financial Action Task Force will be in the territory to conduct a training course for the Virgin Islands on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at the BVI Financial Services Commissions Learning Resource Centre in Pasea, Tortola; and

b. that the team would discuss key messages, including high-level political commitment with high-level stakeholders on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2024.

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

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## **Cabinet Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

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

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and accepted the 2022 Annual Report for the Financial Investigation Agency, and the 2024 Budget Estimates, in accordance respectively with sections 11 and 13 of the Financial Investigation Agency Act; and agreed that the 2022 Annual Report and the 2024 Budget Estimates be laid on the table at the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.
2. Reviewed and considered the Bill entitled, Integrity in Public Life (Amendment) Act, 2024 that seeks to amend the Integrity in Public Life Act (No. 43 of 2021) to expand the powers of the Integrity Commission in accordance with some of the recommendations emanating from the Independent Review of Mr. Denniston Fraser; approved
  - a. the Integrity Framework for the Cabinet, House of Assembly, public officers and statutory boards; considered and decided
  - b. that the Integrity in Public Life (Amendment) Act, 2024 be amended;
  - c. that the Premier's Office provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the amendments to the Integrity in Public Life Bill;
  - d. that the Ministerial Code be updated based on the recommendations submitted in the alignment process conducted by the Cabinet Secretary and any other recommendations to strengthen the Code, and that the Cabinet Secretary be assigned to spearhead this project; noted
  - e. that the House of Assembly will be approving a Code of Conduct to govern its Members via a Resolution in the House and that a Committee for Standards will be established; decided

- f. that the Commissioner for Standards Bill, which will provide for a Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, should be drafted to promote, encourage and safeguard high standards of conduct in the public office of Member of the House of Assembly; and
    - g. that the Premier's Office provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the Commissioner for Standards Bill.
  3. Reviewed and approved the recommendations of the Board of Immigration in respect of applicants for Certificates of Belonger Status; accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to twenty-one (21) persons who, in accordance with section 16 (6) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised) are the spouses of belongers, and who have been living together with their spouses within the Territory for a period not less than five (5) years; accepted and approved the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to fifty-four (54) applicants, who, in the opinion of the Board, have met the legal requirements of Section 16 (3) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised); and decided that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development instruct the Immigration Department to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
  4. Approved application for a grant of easement.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 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.
5. Cabinet decisions will be published in the weekly issues of the Virgin Islands Official 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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