

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 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 official business.

Cabinet:

1. Reviewed and approved the draft Police (Amendment) Bill, 2023; and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
2. Reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Immigration in respect of applicants for Certificates of Belonger Status, and accepted
  - a. the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to nine (9) 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;
  - b. the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to not grant a Certificate of Belonger Status on the basis of marriage to three (3) persons, in accordance with section 16 (6) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended);
  - c. the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Belonger Status to forty-one (41) 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

- d. that the Premier's Office direct that the Immigration Department communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
3. Reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Immigration in respect of applicants for Certificates of Residence; and accepted:
  - a. the recommendations of the Board of Immigration to grant Certificates of Residence to forty-three (43) persons, in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended);
  - b. accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration for endorsement of a minor in accordance with Section 18(2) of the Immigration and Passport Ordinance; and decided
  - c. that the Premier's Office direct that the Immigration Department communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
4. Approved:
  - a. the appointments of the following individuals as Members of the Board of Immigration in accordance with Section 13(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act, with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023:
    - i. Kamika Forbes
    - ii. Michelle Frett-Mathavious
    - iii. Avelinda Freeman
  - b. a monthly stipend of eight hundred dollars (\$800) for members for their attendance at meetings.
5. Approved the extension, as amended, of the COVID-19 Economic Stimulus: Waiver of Stamp Duty on the Sale or Transfer of Property to Belongers on the Instrument of Sale or Transfer to a first-time Property Owner for a period of one (1) year effective 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023; and
  - a. decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the CAP 212 Stamp Duties Act and the Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges Act, 2005, as appropriate, and draft the requisite Resolution; and
  - b. instructed the Financial Secretary to submit a report to the Cabinet on the "Special Exemptions" on Stamp Duties within three (3) months of the end of the extended period.

6. Decided that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the relevant amendment to the Customs Management and Duties Act, 2010 which is required to achieve technical compliance with the requirements of Recommendation 40 of the Financial Action Task Force Recommendations; and that the Bill, subject to its approval by Cabinet, be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at its next convenient Sitting.
7. Decided:
  - a. that the current term of Mr. Moletto Abram Smith Jr., as a member and Chairman of the BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) Board, be concluded with immediate effect in accordance with Schedule 1 3(1) of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004;
  - b. that Mr. Ron Potter be appointed as Chairman of the BVIHSA Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023, subject to approval of the House of Assembly in accordance with Section 5(5)(b) of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004; and approved:
    - i. the appointment of Mrs. Kishelle Blaize-Cameron as Deputy Chairman of the BVIHSA Board with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 until her term expires on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2024, in accordance with Section 5(5)(c) of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004;
    - ii. the appointment of Ms. Rosetta Crandall and Ms. Tashel Martin-Jackson as members of the BVIHSA Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from 1st March, 2023 in accordance with Section 5(3)(a) of the BVI Health Services Authority Act, 2004; and
  - c. noted that remuneration for the BVIHSA Board will be Chairman – one thousand dollars (\$1,000) monthly; Deputy Chairman – six hundred dollars (\$600) monthly; and members – five hundred dollars (\$500) monthly.
8. Approved the appointment of Dr. Dierdra Wheatley-Peters to the post of Human Resources Manager in the BVI Health Services Authority (BVIHSA) for a period of three (3) years on the terms presented by the BVIHSA Board.

9. Approved:

- a. the appointment of the following persons to the Non-Profit Organisation Registration Board (NPORB) in accordance with section 3(2)(a) of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2012 for a period of three (3) years with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023:
  - i. Ms. Kamika Forbes, Member and Chairman; and
  - ii. Mr. Kenneth Hodge, Member and Deputy Chairman
- b. the appointment of Mrs. Natalie Fahie-Smith, Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Social Development as an *ex officio* member of the NPORB in accordance with section 3(2)(b) of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2012 until further notice;
- c. the appointment of Ms. Collette Callwood as Registrar, *ex officio* to the NPORB in accordance with section 3(2)(d) of the Non-Profit Organisations Act, 2012 until further notice; and
- d. noted that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman will receive stipendiary compensation at the rates of four hundred dollars (\$400) and three hundred dollars (\$300), respectively, with payments made quarterly.

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**Cabinet Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

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

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Approved:

- a. the following persons as Members of the Virgin Islands Trade Commission Board in accordance with Section 6 and Sections 10(1) and 10(2) of the Virgin Islands Trade Commission Act, 2020:
  - i. Dr. Jerry Smith, Private business representative for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, in accordance with clauses 6(1)(g) and 10(1) of the Act.

- ii. Mr. John I. Cline, Social sector representative for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, in accordance with clauses 6(1)(e) and 10(1) of the Act.
    - iii. Mrs. Chantal Flax-Ward, Legal practitioner and young person between 18 and 35 years of age for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, in accordance with clauses 6(1)(b), 6(2)(b) and 10(1) of the Act.
    - iv. Ms. Stacy Lloyd, Education sector representative for a period of two (2) years with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 as per clauses 6(1)(d) and 10(1) of the Act.
    - v. Ms. Lavina Liburd, Business and trade association representative for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023 to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2026, in accordance with clauses 6(1)(f) and 10(1) of the Act; and appointed
  - b. Dr. Jerry Smith as Chairperson and Mr. John I. Cline as Deputy Chairperson respectively; and noted
  - c. that Mr. John I. Cline has tendered his resignation from the Economic Advisory Council; therefore, he would be only a member on two (2) government boards;
  - d. that a monthly stipend for remuneration of members' service on the Board is as follows to be paid out of the funds of the Commission:
    - i. Chairman - \$1,200.00
    - ii. Deputy Chairman – \$1,000.00
    - iii. Member - \$800.00; and
  - e. decided that the Premier's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the Instruments of Appointment for signature.
2. Reviewed and approved the draft Bill entitled, Customs Management and Duties (Amendment) Act, 2023; and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
3. Approved the extension as amended of the COVID-19 Economic Stimulus: Waiver of Stamp Duty on the Sale or Transfer of Property to Belongers on the instrument of Sale or Transfer to a first-time Property Owner for a period of one (1) year, effective 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2023; approved the draft Stamps (Amendment) Act, 2023; noted that an amendment to the Statutory Rates, Fees and Charges Act, 2005 and the drafting of a Resolution are not necessary; and decided that the Bill be submitted to the next convenient Sitting of the House of Assembly.

4. Considered and approved the draft International Tax Authority (ITA) (Amendment) Act, 2023, to allow for the statutory appointment of the Financial Secretary as Chairman of the ITA Board; and decided that the Bill be introduced in the House of Assembly for its first reading at the next convenient Sitting.
5. Approved one Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence application.

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### **Cabinet Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. John J. Rankin, CMG, chaired the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2023 at the Premier's Conference Room, Cutlass Tower.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Decided that the Governor appoint the day Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 as a Public Holiday in the Territory, to allow for the celebration of the King's Coronation and that the King's 2023 official Birthday is marked on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 with the day designated as a public holiday; and
  - a. advised the Governor to issue a Proclamation, pursuant to section 5(a) of the Public Holidays Act, Cap. 199 of the Laws of the Virgin Islands, Revised Edition 1991, that in the year 2023, the day 8<sup>th</sup> May shall be observed as a Public Holiday for the year 2023 and pursuant to section 5(b) of the Public Holidays Act Cap. 199 of the Laws of the Virgin Islands, Revised Edition 1991, the 16<sup>th</sup> June be observed as the Sovereign's Birthday; and
  - b. decided that the Governor's Office instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the proclamation to give effect to the decision.
2. Considered and approved the Bill entitled, Buildings (Amendment) Act, 2023 (CAP. 234), which seeks to replace all references to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department with Chief Planner, Town and Country Planning Department; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient Sitting.
3. Approved nineteen (19) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 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](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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