

THE CABINET OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS - POST MEETING STATEMENT

CABINET DECISIONS

8th and 15th May, 2024

Cabinet Meeting – 8th May, 2024

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 8th May, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

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

Cabinet:

1. Noted the update of the cost for the conversion to the new salary structure, salary progressions, and increment arrears.
2. Considered and approved the proposed draft document with a view to enacting a Professional Accountants Bill, which seeks to regulate the professional accounting and auditing industry in the jurisdiction of the Virgin Islands with the intention of expanding the Financial Services Industry business in the Territory; and decided that the Ministry of Finance provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the proposed draft document and, thereafter, re-submit for Cabinet's consideration before being forwarded to the House of Assembly.
3. Noted the recommendation to repeal the Wills Act of 1872, as amended up to 1961; and decided:
 - a. that the Ministry of Financial Services, Labour and Trade provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers with respect to a Wills Bill, taking the document into consideration; and
 - b. that once the Bill is reviewed and drafted by the Chambers, it is re-submitted for consideration by the Cabinet before being forwarded to the House of Assembly.

4. Received and reviewed the National Waste Management Strategy aimed at reducing the social and environmental impacts of managing the Territory's waste, while increasing economic effects; and decided that the Ministry of Health and Social Development consider a phased approach of those priorities within the National Waste Management Strategy that would provide for the establishment of the Waste Management Act, for inclusion in a paper to be submitted for Cabinet's consideration.
5. Approved two (2) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

Cabinet Meeting – 15th May, 2024

His Excellency the Governor Daniel Pruce chaired the meeting held on 15th May, 2024 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present, with the exception of the Minister for Financial Services, Labour and Trade; Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports and the Attorney General, who were away on official business. Solicitor General Mrs. Jo-Ann Williams-Roberts attended as the acting Attorney General.

Cabinet:

1. Decided:
 - a. that the Elections Act, Revised Edition 2013, be amended;
 - b. to establish a framework for the remuneration of the staff of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections and other core support staff for overtime hours worked in the administrative conduct of an election and or referendum; agreed
 - c. to drafting new legislation that provides for the establishment of an Electoral Advisory Committee that will have the statutory role to provide advice to the Supervisor of Elections on the performance of his/her functions as stated in the Elections Act and Referendum Act, and the Office of the Supervisor of Elections transitioning to become a Department, until provision is made in the Virgin Islands Constitution Order 2007 for the establishment of a constitutionally enshrined Electoral Commission;
 - d. that the Deputy Governor's Office provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers to make the necessary amendments; and

- e. that the Deputy Governor's Office submit a request to the Attorney General's Chambers that the Elections Act be consolidated to include all amendments and regulations.
6. Reviewed and approved the Magistracy's 2023 Annual Report; and decided that it be laid on the table in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
7. Approved the appointment of Ms. Angela Burns, as a Communications Specialist, on consultancy with the Premier's Office for a period of one (1) year with effect from 1st June, 2024 to 31st May, 2025.
8. Approved the Social Assistance Programme Design for the purpose of restructuring the Public Assistance Programme in accordance with Commission of Inquiry Recommendation B7; authorised the Ministry of Health and Social Development to engage a UNICEF Legal Consultant to draft amendments to the Public Assistance Act, 2013, along with subsidiary legislation, consistent with the Social Assistance Programme Design, in consultation with the Ministry and subject to support and guidance from the Attorney General's Chambers; and decided that the Ministry of Health and Social Development provide drafting instructions to the Attorney General's Chambers on the drafting of the relevant Bill.
9. Approved three (3) Non-Belongers Land Holding Licence applications.

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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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