

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Outstanding Recommendations.
2. Reviewed the report on the pension reform activities in the Public Service to date; endorsed
  - a. the composition of the Pension Reform Steering Committee below and Terms of Reference:
    - i. Deputy Governor – Co-Chairperson;
    - ii. Financial Secretary – Co-Chairperson;
    - iii. Permanent Secretary, Office of the Deputy Governor;
    - iv. President, Civil Service Association;
    - v. Director, Department of Human Resources;
    - vi. Two Project Managers – Secretariat;
    - vii. A legal representative;
    - viii. A representative from Central Statistics Office;
    - ix. A representative from the Virgin Islands Retired Public Officers Association (VIRPOA); and
    - x. Private Sector Representative; requested
  - b. that the Ministry of Finance, by June 2025 conduct:
    - i. a review of existing pensioners to determine if pension payments are at a reasonable rate, taking into account the relevant factors within and relating to the economy; and make appropriate recommendations for a rate increase of pension to pensioners; and

- ii. a review of the existing *ex-gratia* pension scheme to determine if payments are at a reasonable rate, taking into account the relevant factors within and relating to the economy; and make appropriate recommendations for a rate increase of ex-gratia payment.
3. Approved application for a charge on registration by Manuel Reef Marina Limited.
4. Considered and approved the Customs Management and Duties (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2025, which aligns with the Financial Action Task Force's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing recommendations; and decided that the Bill be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
5. Revoked permission to install mooring buoy at Cane Garden Bay, Tortola – Quito's Ltd.
6. Reviewed and approved the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation's 2020 Annual Report; and decided that it be laid on the table of the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting pursuant to Section 22 of the British Virgin Islands Corporation Act, Cap 277.
7. Reviewed and approved the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports of the Department of Waste Management; and decided that the reports are laid on the table of the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.
8. Considered and approved the Criminal Justice (International Cooperation) (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and the Mutual Legal Assistance (United States of America) (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which align with the Financial Action Task Force's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing recommendations; and decided that the Bills be introduced for their first readings in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.

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### **Cabinet Meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 at the Premier's Conference Room.

All Members were present.

Cabinet:

1. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Outstanding Recommendations.

2. Noted:

- a. the details of the Tsunami Advisory issued for the British Virgin Islands on 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2025;
  - b. the additional information regarding the implications of a tsunami for the territory, and the need for local, regional and international collaboration to facilitate timely information and response; and
  - c. the importance of citizens practising tsunami response in national exercises such as the CaribeWave Exercise scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.
3. Reviewed 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:
- a. to thirty-eight (38) 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. to one person who, in accordance with Section 16 (7) of the Immigration and Passport Act, is the spouse of a belonger, and has lived together with his spouse in the Territory for a period exceeding 2 ½ years, prior to her passing in July 2021;
  - c. to forty-four (44) 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
  - d. directed that the Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation instructs the Department of Immigration to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
4. Reviewed the recommendations of the Board of Immigration in respect of applicants for Certificates of Residence; accepted the recommendations of the Board of Immigration:
- a. to grant Certificates of Residence to two hundred and twenty-two (222) persons, in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (as amended);
  - b. to not grant a Certificate of Residence to four (4) applicants, who, in the opinion of the Board, have not met the legal requirements of Section 18 (1) of the Immigration and Passport Act (revised);

- c. for endorsement of two (2) minor children in accordance with Section 18 (2) of the Immigration and Passport Ordinance; and
  - d. directed that the Ministry of Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation instruct the Department of Immigration to communicate Cabinet's decision to the respective applicants in a timely manner.
5. Approved:
- a. the establishment of the Road Town Partnership (RTP), a public-private partnership (PPP) between the Government of the Virgin Islands and the private sector and community, administered by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development;
  - b. the composition of the RTP Board as follows:
    - i. Government's members will be:
      1. Junior Minister for Tourism and Culture – Co-Chair;
      2. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development;
      3. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Works;
      4. Chief Advisor, Premier's Office – Representative, Project Sponsor;
      5. Chair, Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency– Executing Agency; and
      6. Chairman, BVI Tourist Board.
    - ii. The Private Sector's Members will be:
      1. Co-Chair – Business Owner Representative;
      2. Finance Chair – Fundraising and Professional Services;
      3. Representative of the Retail Sector;
      4. Representative of the Professional/Banking Services Sector; and
      5. Representative of BVI Yachting, Hotel & Tourism Association /Hospitality Sector.
  - c. the establishment of the RTP Secretariat in the Virgin Islands Recovery and Development Agency (VIRDA); noted
  - d. that funding for the RTP was provided in the 2025 budgetary estimates through the RDA Trust Fund with the allocation of \$500,000 and. an additional \$500,000 is envisaged in 2026; decided

- e. that the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sustainable Development provide semi-annual and annual reports to Cabinet; and noted
  - f. that the RTP would be subject to the normal auditing procedures by the Office of the Director of Internal Audit and the Auditor General's Office.
6. Considered and approved the draft amendments to the Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) Act, Revised Edition 2020; decided
- a. that the Ministry of Finance instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to vet the draft Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Amendment) Act, 2025; and
  - b. that the draft Mutual Legal Assistance (Tax Matters) (Amendment) Act, 2025, once vetted by the Attorney General's Chambers, be submitted to Cabinet for approval before being introduced in the House of Assembly; and
7. Noted the status report on the Construction of the National Emergency Operations Centre.
8. Approved a revocation of Crown Land Grant in Road Town.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 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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