

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

### **CABINET DECISIONS**

15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025

#### **Cabinet Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 at the Premier's Conference Room.

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

Cabinet:

1. Decided that the Civil Registry and Passport Office enter into an agreement with FamilySearch International for the digitising, safe secure preservation (both on and off location) and in an archival quality format, of civil records located at the Civil Registry and Passport Office and that the Civil Registry and Passport Office become a FamilySearch International Affiliate Centre.
2. Noted the content of the report that outlines the data captured through the customer service monitoring and evaluation tools and information about the programmes supported by the Customer Service Care Centre, which are in keeping with the Public Service Transformation Programme.
3. Noted the content of the Governor's Office Commission of Inquiry Outstanding Recommendations.
4. Noted the national priority areas identified from the feedback received from Ministries and Departments; approved the following national priority areas of study for a period of three (3) years (2024 - 2026) to allow more time for strategic workforce planning, consistency and stability and efficient resource allocation:
  - a. Education;
  - b. Health, Public Health, and Medical Sciences;
  - c. Infrastructure, Architecture, and Engineering;
  - d. Technology and Digital Transformation;
  - e. Creative Industries and Communication;
  - f. Marine and Environmental Sciences;
  - g. Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship;

- h. Governance and Public Policy;
  - i. Law, Criminal Justice, and Global Affairs; and
  - j. Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Security
5. Approved the appointment of Mrs. Pearla Sylvester-Thomas to the post of Chief Nursing Executive for a period of three (3) years on terms presented by the BVI Health Services Authority Board.
  6. Reviewed and approved the Tobacco Products Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which seek to address various deficiencies and bring the legislation in line with international standards; more specifically to meet the basic provisions set forth in the World Health Organization Framework Convention for Tobacco Control); decided that the Tobacco Products Control (Amendment) Bill, 2025 be introduced for its first reading in the House of Assembly at the next convenient sitting.
  7. Approved the appointment of Mrs. Andria D. Flax to the Public Assistance Committee in accordance with Section 3(2)(b) and 8(1) of the Public Assistance Act, 2013 for a period of two (2) years with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 until 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2027; and noted that the Chairperson receives stipendiary compensation of one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150), while other members receive stipendiary compensation at the rate of \$125.00 per meeting attended.
  8. Considered and approved the Financial Services (Fees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2025, which introduce application and approval fees for appointing a money laundering reporting officer pursuant to Regulation 13 of the Anti-money Laundering Regulations, Revised Edition 2020 and increase application and approval fees for the appointment of directors and senior officers under section 19(2) of the Banks and Trust Companies Act, Revised Edition 2020; and decided that the Regulations be published in the Official Gazette of the Virgin Islands and thereafter laid on the table in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.
  9. Considered and approved the Anti-money Laundering (Amendment) Regulations, 2025, which introduce application and approval fees for appointing money laundering reporting officers; and decided that the Regulations be published in the Official Gazette of the Virgin Islands and thereafter laid on the table in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.

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### **Cabinet Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2025**

His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Daniel Pruce, chaired the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 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 and approved the Public Procurement (Amendment) Regulations, 2025, which seek to amend the threshold values in Regulation 9 of the Public Procurement Regulations from \$10,000 to \$25,000, and \$100,000 to \$250,000; and decided that the Public Procurement (Amendment) Regulations, 2025 be published in the Virgin Islands Official Gazette and then laid on the table in the House of Assembly at its next convenient sitting.
3. Decided that the Virgin Islands join the Blue Belt Programme through a commitment to:
  - a. establishment of a network of protected areas, or expansion of the existing network of protected areas, commensurate with other Territories within the Blue Belt;
  - b. development of a comprehensive marine management framework for sustainable management of human activities;
  - c. establishment of a robust legislative and enforcement regime for the protection of the marine environment; and
  - d. ensure an adaptive management review cycle is established to review and amend, where necessary, conservation and management measures for the protection of the marine environment.

**Published by the Cabinet Office on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 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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