

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2020

[Gazetted 18th August, 2020]

WHEREAS the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 (U.K.S.I. 2007 No. 1678) came into force on 15th June 2007;

WHEREAS it was agreed between the United Kingdom Government and the Government of the Virgin Islands that the said Constitution may be reviewed after of ten (10) years after the date of which it came into force and it is now thirteen (13) years since that Constitution came into force;

WHEREAS Cabinet has agreed, subject to the approval of the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands for the establishment of a Constitutional Review Commission comprising eleven (11) members: a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson both of whom are selected by the Premier through Cabinet after consultation with members of the House of Assembly; and six (6) other members to be nominated by the Premier and three (3) members to be selected by Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition and appointed by the Cabinet, for the purpose of conducting a full review of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 (U.K.S.I. 2007 No. 1678);

WHEREAS Cabinet has agreed among other things that,

- (a) the overall composition of the said Commission should comprise persons selected from the main Islands of the Virgin Islands (namely Tortola, Anegada, Virgin Gorda and Jost Van Dyke) including persons drawn from the legal fraternity, academia, business, communications/public relations, and other areas of civil society; and
- (b) the Commission be provided with a Secretariat which shall consist of a Secretary and appropriate staff and resources to conduct the review and produce its report and any other necessary documents, with the budgetary costs met by the Premier's Office;

WHEREAS Cabinet has further agreed that the Terms of Reference of the Constitutional Review Commission should be as follows:

- (a) to re-examine and re-evaluate the vision of the people of the Virgin Islands, as expressed in the preamble to the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, and to amend accordingly, the continuity of the political and constitutional development of the Virgin Islands;
- (b) to evaluate the current Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007, and determine whether it advances or facilitate the desires of the people of the Virgin Islands in achieving the revised vision in (a) above;
- (c) to identify any gaps in relation to item (a) above;

- (d) to make recommendations for Constitutional Reform, if necessary, based on (a), (b) and (c) above;
- (e) to review the next step towards self-determination for the Territory of the Virgin Islands;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands has approved the establishment of and of the composition of the Constitutional Review Commission for the purpose of conducting a full review of the Virgin Islands Constitution Order, 2007 (U.K.S.I. 2007 No. 1678) with the Terms of Reference specified above.

Passed by the House of Assembly this 28th day of July, 2020.

(Sgd.) Julian Willock,
Speaker.

(Sgd.) Phyllis Evans,
Clerk of the House of Assembly.