

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 18 NOVEMBER 2013

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 18 November 2013:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Land Acquisition; and
4. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Clarks Town Water Supply Rehabilitation and Upgrading Project

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$47,011,615.00 to Bacchus Engineering Works Limited, for the rehabilitation and upgrading of the Clarks Town Water Supply Network (Phase 2), in the parish of Trelawny.

The project will provide for the construction and testing of approximately 5.1km of 250mm nominal diameter ductile iron transmission pipeline from Clarks Town Well to the Georgia valve chamber, and 0.9km of 100mm nominal diameter ductile iron distribution pipeline along the Clarks Town main road in Trelawny.

(ii) Boscobel/Elletson Flats Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement Project

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$4,131,683.01 to Vinci Construction Grands Projects, for the provision of “design, build and operate” services to replace the existing Boscobel, St. Mary and Elletson Flats, St. Andrew wastewater treatment plants.

The National Water Commission operates over sixty (60) wastewater treatment facilities. Inadequate funding for the operation and maintenance of these facilities over the years has resulted in malfunctioning plants that discharge low quality effluent into the environment. The NWC will be executing sewerage improvement works that would ensure that the discharge from these plants meets the standards stipulated by the environmental regulator. These works include plant rehabilitation and modifications, sewerage diversion to adequately performing plants and the construction of new plants.

(iii) Procurement of an Online Legal Research Library Facility for Attorneys Employed to the Government of Jamaica

Cabinet endorsed the contract entered into by the Ministry of Justice with LexisNexis (UK), for the provision of an online research library facility to Attorneys-at-Law employed to the Government of Jamaica and to the Judiciary for a period of three years.

Access to legal resource material via modern up-to-date methods has been a major concern for Attorneys-at-Law in Ministries, Departments and Agencies. As such, attempts were made to secure access to the LexisNexis online library in an effort to reduce the exorbitant cost of law books, law reports, periodicals and other legal materials.

(iv) Provision of Security Guard Services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Head Office and Outstations Island-wide

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$142,917,800.00 for the provision of security guard services at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' head office and outstations island-wide in order to secure the Ministry's personnel, equipment, material and property.

(v) Implementation of a Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS) for Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ)

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$17,975,000.00 for the supply, customisation, installation, training and three-year maintenance of a commercial off-the-shelf Integrated Tax Administration System for Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ).

TAJ has been undergoing an extensive operational reform aimed at improving business processes and bringing its services in line with international best practices. The purchase and installation of a commercial off-the-shelf Integrated Tax Administration System is in keeping with this thrust to modernise TAJ and will result in the provision of services to its stakeholders in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Cocoa Industry Board for the Period 2008/2009;
- (ii) Commission for the Prevention of Corruption for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (iii) Development Bank of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (iv) Jamaica Intellectual Property Office for the Financial Year 2008/2009;
- (v) Jamaica Deposit Insurance Corporation for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (vi) National Export Import Bank of Jamaica Limited for the Financial Year 2012/2013; and
- (vii) Public Accountancy Board for the Financial Years 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

These Reports will be tabled in Parliament at a later date.

3. Land Acquisition

Review of Decision to Acquire Lands Surrounding the Parliament Building

Cabinet gave approval for the reversal of the Decision to acquire lands surrounding the Parliament Building located at 81 Duke Street, Kingston, and the rescission of the related Declaration to facilitate the compulsory acquisition of the surrounding properties at 85 Duke Street and 90 Duke Street, Kingston.

Cabinet had previously approved the acquisition of properties surrounding Gordon House in 2008 in order to expand the existing structure of the Parliament Building. Since then, the proposal for the expansion of the Parliament Building has been reviewed and favourable consideration given to the establishment of a new Parliament Building in Parliament Square. Parliament Square would be constructed on lands at the northern end of the National Heroes Park.

4. Reports

(i) Jamaica's Participation in the 68th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly

Cabinet noted a report on Jamaica's participation in the 68th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly held in New York over the period 24 September 2013 to 1 October 2013. The report provided information on the proceedings and decisions of the General Debate of the Assembly, including the following:

- 1) High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);
- 2) Special Event to Follow-up on Efforts made towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
- 3) High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament;
- 4) Meeting of Commonwealth Foreign Ministers;
- 5) Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG);
- 6) Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China;
- 7) Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC);
- 8) Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 15 (G15);
- 9) Fifth Special Meeting of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations of the Caribbean Community (COFCOR); and
- 10) Various bilateral meetings in which the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and other members of the delegation participated.

(ii) Official Visit of the Prime Minister of Jamaica The Most Honourable Portia Simpson Miller to Japan: 4-8 November 2013

Cabinet noted a report on the official visit to Japan by the Prime Minister from 4 to 8 November 2013. The report provided information on the objectives of the visit which included marking the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries and to further strengthen the bonds of friendship, cooperation, trade and investment between the two countries.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
8 January 2014