

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 16 DECEMBER 2013

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 16 December 2013:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation Matters;
3. Annual Report;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Land Acquisitions;
6. National Security Policy for Jamaica, 2013;
7. Air Services Agreements;
8. Tablets in Schools Project;
9. Proposal for Increased Benefits to Government Pensioners; and
10. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Wastewater Treatment Plant and Design and Equipment Supply for PETROJAM Limited

Cabinet approved:

- 1) the increase in the value of the contract awarded to IBI-MAAK Caribbean Limited in February 2012 for design and supply services for a wastewater treatment plant from US\$2,308,500.00 to US\$3,105,009.00;
- 2) a total variation amount of US\$643,189.00, mainly to cover the cost of additional equipment; and
- 3) an additional contingency amount of US\$153,320.00

A modification to the scope of works to include an additional process step and a larger biological treatment system was required for the plant to meet the National Environment and Planning Agency's trade effluent standards. This resulted in an increase in the cost to execute the contract.

(ii) Government Employees Transportation and Management Services Project

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$206,434,909.00 to Bloomfield Jamaica Limited, for the provision of transportation and management services for the Government Employees Transportation Project for a period of three (3) years.

The Government Employees Transportation Project is coordinated by the Ministry of Finance and Planning and managed by a private contractor who has the responsibility to provide daily management and operational services.

(iii) Supply of Motor Vehicle and Other Licence Plates

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$145,213,300.00 to Musson Jamaica Limited, for the supply of licence plates for a period of one (1) year, beginning 3 January 2013, with the option to renew for an additional year.

Since 1990, Musson Jamaica Limited has been the sole supplier to the Government of Jamaica of motor vehicle and other licence plates.

(iv) Provision of Janitorial and Related Services

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$48,448,268.16 to Minott Janitorial Services Limited, for the provision of janitorial and related services at the Bank of Jamaica for a period of three (3) years.

Janitorial services are being contracted to clean the premises in keeping with the highest public hygiene and environmental standards.

2. Legislation Matters

(i) The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2013

Cabinet approved the Bill entitled "The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2013" to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Companies Act to authorise the use of a single registration form to improve the ease with which business enterprises can be registered under the relevant laws to conduct business in Jamaica. Compliance with these requirements would improve the business environment in Jamaica and the competitiveness of Jamaica as a business destination.

(ii) Amendment to the Conch (Export Levy) Act

Cabinet gave approval for the amendment of the Conch (Export Levy) Act and for the Bill to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Act is being amended to allow for the payment of the export levy on conch to be made within three (3) months of the submission of an application for an export health certificate and export licence for each consignment of conch; and for the payment of the levy in instalments.

(iii) Amendments to the Caribbean Maritime Institute Act

Cabinet gave approval for the amendment of the Caribbean Maritime Institute Act and the issue of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel, accordingly.

The Act is being amended to allow the Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI) to obtain degree granting powers, grant and confer degrees and other educational awards to graduates, and to allow for the change of the name of the Institute to the "Caribbean Maritime University."

3. Annual Report

Cabinet considered the Annual Report of the Port Authority of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2012/2013.

This Report will be tabled in Parliament at a later date.

4. Board Appointments

(i) Aeronautical Telecommunications Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Mr. Paul Lindsay as a member of the Board of Directors of Aeronautical Telecommunications Limited, with effect from 17 December 2013 to 11 March 2015, when the tenure of the current Board would expire.

(ii) Advisory Board for the Jamaica Customs Agency

Cabinet gave approval for the establishment of the Advisory Board for the Jamaica Customs Agency, and the appointment of members thereto for a period of three (3) years with effect from 6 January 2014 to 31 December 2017 as under:

- 1) Mr. Francis Kennedy;
- 2) Mr. Kim Clarke;
- 3) Miss Jacqueline Cole;
- 4) Mrs. Audrey Sewell;
- 5) Dr. Eric Deans
- 6) Mr. Sandor Pike; and
- 7) Ms. Shauna Trowers.

(iii) Jamaica Dairy Development Board

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Morrel Salmon to the Board of the Jamaica Dairy Development Board, with effect from 16 December 2013 to 13 May 2015, when the tenure of the existing Board would expire.

(iv) Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Mr. Richard Depass to the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited, with effect from 16 December 2013 to 12 February 2015, when the tenure of the existing Board would expire.

(v) Registration Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Ms. Karen Gaye Foote in the place of Mrs. Barbara McFarlane, with effect from 16 December 2013 to 3 July 2014, when the tenure of the current Tribunal would expire.

(vi) Council of the University of Technology, Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Council of the University of Technology, Jamaica, with effect from 16 December 2013 and up to 31 October 2015, when the tenure of the current Council would expire:

- 1) Mr. Dennis Chung;
- 2) The Most Honourable Errald Miller;

- 3) Mr. Greaville Smith; and
- 4) Dr. Shane Alexis.

5. Land Acquisitions

(i) Land Adjoining Fisherman's Beach, Falmouth, for the Falmouth Cruise Ship Terminal Development

Cabinet gave approval for the compulsory acquisition, under the Land Acquisition Act, of unregistered land adjoining Fisherman's Beach, Seaboard Street, Falmouth, Trelawny, for the purpose of the Falmouth Cruise Ship Terminal Development.

The land being acquired is integral to the plans for the continued development of the cruise shipping facilities at Falmouth and is located on the waterfront and bounded by properties which are part of the plans. It forms part of the area which will be developed as a Taxi Staging Park and is therefore critical to the overall implementation of the plans.

(ii) Sangster International Airport – Runway Extension and Installation of the Runway End Safety Areas

Cabinet gave approval for the Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ) to proceed with discussions and negotiations with MBJ Airports Limited (MBJ) for the implementation of the Sangster International Airport runway extension project, with the objective of enabling the airport to meet the International Civil Aviation Organisation Runway End Safety Areas standards;

Sangster International Airport is operated by a private entity, MBJ, under a 30-year Master Concession and Lease Agreement with the AAJ. In keeping with the Concession Agreement, the MBJ was required to implement the prescribed Capital Development Programme, the major component of which is the runway extension works. Additional lands outside the airport property are required for the planned development.

6. National Security Policy for Jamaica, 2013

Cabinet approved the National Security Policy for Jamaica, 2013 and authorised its tabling in Parliament as a White Paper.

The Policy provides for the strengthening of Jamaica's capability to anticipate, deter, defeat, mitigate or withstand threats to Jamaica's national security in an integrated manner.

7. Air Services Agreements

Cabinet gave approval for the Government of Jamaica to sign Air Services Agreements with the Republic of South Africa, the Swiss Federal Council (Switzerland) and the United Arab Emirates, respectively.

The Air Services Agreements provide for the designation and authorisation of airlines; grant of traffic rights; an open route schedule; and multiple designation of airlines by each Contracting Party.

8. Tablets in Schools Project

Cabinet gave approval for the implementation of the Tablets in Schools Pilot Project and the allocation of J\$1.4 billion from the Universal Service Fund to conduct the Pilot Project.

The primary goal of the Project is to continue to utilise technology to increase learning opportunities for students inside and outside the formal school system. The Pilot Project will span a twenty-month period in the first instance, with a view to full implementation across approximately 1,000 public schools island-wide over a four to five-year period thereafter.

9. Proposal for Increased Benefits to Government Pensioners

Cabinet gave approval for increases to Government Pensioners, including widows/widowers and dependents, with effect from 1 July 2013.

In 1991, approval was given by the Cabinet to increase the annual pension entitlement in an effort to address the plight of pensioners occasioned by increases in the cost of living. Since this decision, increases have been granted on 1 July 1991 and on the 1st of July each successive year.

10. Reports

(i) The Expansion of the Mandate of the National Competitiveness Council to Address Firm-Level Issues in Doing Business in Jamaica

Cabinet noted a report on the expansion of the mandate of the National Competitiveness Council, which was established in March 2010 to address the hindrances to doing business in Jamaica. The report advised that the Council would now provide a framework for addressing firm-level issues and serve as the entity to which all investment, trade and business bottlenecks that arise from Government, private sector or other sources would be directed. Projects requiring the intervention of the Council would be channelled through a Secretariat located at the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO).

(ii) 37th Meeting of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development

Cabinet noted a report on the 37th Meeting of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) and a Special Session of COTED on the Strategic Direction of the Council, held in Georgetown, Guyana, over the period 5 to 9 November 2013.

The report provided information on the deliberations, with particular reference to issues of priority to Jamaica, including the ruling of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) in the Shanique Myrie case; external trade issues (CARICOM-Canada trade negotiations, the meeting of the CARICOM-US Trade and Investment Council, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting, and the future of ACP Caribbean Sugar); and trade in goods (amendment of Article 83 of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas to allow States flexibility to seek the approval of COTED to temporarily increase or reduce the Common External Tariff (CET), to suspend the CET on petroleum products, and to review the procedures for verification of the Community Rules of Origin).

(iii) Participation by Jamaica in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Cabinet noted a report on the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, held over the period 15 to 17 November 2013. The report provided information on the deliberations at the various meetings on issues, including global political and economic developments; investment; climate change, including the concerns of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and climate change financing for vulnerable countries; debt challenges; reduction of border constraints; international trade; maximising country-to-country collaboration and partnerships within the Commonwealth; the future and strategic direction of the Commonwealth; allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by the Sri Lankan Government against the ethnic Tamil group; and the political situation in the Maldives.

(iv) Report on the XXXVIII Plenary Meeting of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force

Cabinet noted a report on the deliberations and decisions of the XXXVIII Plenary Meeting of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) held over the period 18 to 21 November 2013 in Freeport, Bahamas. The report provided information on further action required of Jamaica to become fully compliant with the requirements with respect to measures for anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism; and Jamaica's progress in that regard, particularly legislative reform.

(v) Accelerating the National Mathematics Programme

Cabinet noted a report on the acceleration of the National Mathematics Programme by the Ministry of Education, in direct response to the poor performance of students in the subject. The report provided data on the performance of students in the subject in national tests and the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examinations for the years 2010 to 2013; the targets in the National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) for the improvement of student performance in the subject; the conclusion that it was unlikely that the targets would be met; the consequent proposal for accelerating the National Mathematics Programme and the financial and human resource requirements; the expected benefits from accelerating the Programme; and the interventions to date.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
8 January 2014