

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 20 JANUARY 2014

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 January 2014:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointment;
4. The Conditional Waiver of Visa Requirements for Nationals of the People's Republic of China who Travel to Jamaica for Tourism Purposes;
5. Special Benefit Orders;
6. Government of Jamaica Support for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Lucia to Support Recovery Efforts from Natural Disaster of December 2013; and
7. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1) Contracts

(i) Renovation Works for Jamaica Constabulary Force

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of J\$178,123,810.00 to Share Con Limited, for renovation works at the Jamaica Constabulary Force facilities at 45 East Queen Street, Kingston.

Renovation works are being undertaken to enhance the institutional capacity of the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

(ii) Lease of Laboratory Analysing Machines

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$2,278,690.54 to Lasco Distributors Limited, for the lease of laboratory analysing machines with the purchase of reagents for three (3) years, within health facilities in the Southern Regional Health Authority.

The Southern Regional Health Authority provides a range of laboratory services that support the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. Laboratory services are provided at the following facilities: Mandeville Regional Hospital; May Pen Hospital; Black River Hospital; Percy Junor Hospital; and Santa Cruz Health Centre.

(iii) Renovation of the Bus Staging Area of the Ocho Rios Cruise Ship Terminal

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of J\$65,022,814.53 to Tankweld Construction Company Limited, for renovation works to the bus staging area of the Ocho Rios Cruise Ship Terminal.

The Bus Staging Area Renovation Project seeks to significantly improve the tourism product in the town of Ocho Rios, St Ann, by refurbishing selected areas of the town's infrastructure.

(iv) Construction of Houses under the Barracks Relocation Project

Cabinet approved the award of two contracts to Chin's Construction Company Limited, for the construction of houses at Hampton Court, St. Thomas in the amount of J\$284,816,250.00 and Springfield, Clarendon in the amount of J\$275,436,355.00, under the Barracks Relocation Project.

The Government of Jamaica has received financial support from the European Union for the Sugar Transformation Programme of which the Barracks Relocation Project is a component.

2) Annual Reports

Cabinet considered and noted the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Jamaica Mortgage Bank for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (ii) Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company Limited for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (iii) KCT Services Limited for the Financial Year 2011/2012;
- (iv) National Housing Trust for the Financial Year 2011/2012; and
- (v) Registrar General's Department for the Financial Year 2006/2007.

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

3) Board Appointment

Maxfield Park Children's Home

Cabinet approved the appointment of Ms. Lucille Brodber as Chairman of the Maxfield Park Children's Home, with effect from 20 January 2014 until the tenure of the existing Board expires on 6 May 2015.

4) The Conditional Waiver of Visa Requirements for Nationals of the People's Republic of China who Travel to Jamaica for Tourism Purposes

Cabinet approved the conditional waiver of visa requirements for Chinese nationals travelling to Jamaica for the purpose of tourism for periods of thirty (30) days or less; and a mandatory re-evaluation of the programme after one (1) year to assess whether any consideration should be given to an extension of the waiver.

The People's Republic of China has been identified as a strong prospective target for an increase in tourist arrivals. This thrust is in keeping with the Government's effort to diversify and enhance Jamaica's position as a tourist destination by penetrating non-traditional markets.

5) Special Benefit Orders

(i) Hellshire Phase IV, St. Catherine

Cabinet gave approval for the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order in respect of the captioned project being undertaken by the National Housing Trust (NHT), to facilitate the allocation of:

- (1) five (5) lots for persons whose income placed them in the 1% and 3% income bands;
- (2) five (5) solutions each for members of the Jamaica Teachers Association, the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the Island Special Constabulary Force, the Nurses Association of Jamaica, the Jamaica Defence Force, and the Jamaica Civil Service Association;
- (3) one (1) two-bedroom unit for persons with disabilities;
- (4) eleven (11) solutions for staff of the NHT; and
- (5) ten (10) solutions for "Young Adult" contributors; and

Cabinet also gave approval for the issue of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to facilitate the promulgation of the Order.

(ii) Majesty Gardens Housing Development, Phase I, St Andrew

Cabinet gave approval for the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order in respect of the captioned project being implemented by the National Housing Trust (NHT), for the selection criteria for the Majesty Gardens Housing Development Phase I in St. Andrew for contributors meeting the following criteria:

- (1) the selectee must be registered with the NHT, having made at least 12 months of contributions at the time of the loan interview;
- (2) the selectee must be included in the survey conducted by the Corporate and Business Strategy Department of the NHT from May 2012 to June 2012, and ratified by a Committee comprising representatives of the Social Development Commission, the Parish Council and the Church as having lived in the community for the required number of years (minimum 21 years);
- (3) the selectee must satisfy the eligibility requirements for a non-homeowner's loan from the NHT;
- (4) the selectee must satisfy the NHT regarding their ability to meet the repayment requirements, either individually or with a co-applicant;
- (5) selection will be based on the highest points and no household will have more than one (1) selectee;
- (6) the selectee's place of residence must be situated in the Majesty Garden's community and the selectee must have been a resident for at least 21 years;
- (7) the reservation of two (2) units for residents of Majesty Gardens who are Public Sector Workers.

Cabinet also gave approval for the issue of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to facilitate the promulgation of the Order.

Under the National Housing Trust Act and the 1979 Housing Benefits Order, the selection of beneficiaries in housing projects is based on the Priority Entitlement Index which gives preference based on specified considerations, including the number of contributions made by the prospective beneficiary, as well as the geographical location of residence or place of work.

6) Government of Jamaica Support for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Lucia to Support Recovery Efforts from Natural Disaster of December 2013

Cabinet gave approval for a donation in the amount of US\$250,000.00 (J\$26.25 million) to support the recovery effort by the countries of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Lucia following the December 2013 natural disaster.

In December 2013, the three (3) territories experienced loss of life and significant damage to infrastructure and property due to torrential rains. The repercussions were particularly severe for their agricultural and tourism sectors, which would take some time to recover. Jamaica's assistance, as a Caribbean neighbour and CARICOM partner, will be channelled through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency

7) Reports

(i) Outcome of the Thirtieth (30th) Board Meeting of the Global Fund

Cabinet noted a report on the outcome of the meeting of the Board of the Global Fund held in Geneva, Switzerland during the period 4 to 9 November 2013 and of several related meetings attended by the Minister of Health. The report advised of key areas of consensus at the 30th Global Fund Meeting, namely the approval of: a new Whistle-Blowing Policy and Procedures for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; the amended policy on "Eligibility Criteria, Counterpart Financing Requirements and Prioritisation of Proposals for Funding from the Global Fund"; the Global Fund Key Performance Indicator Framework for 2014-2015; and the appointment of Committee leaderships. The report also advised of a meeting convened with the Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations, whereat the Minister provided an update on the status of the HIV programme in Jamaica.

(ii) Outcome of the Chemical Incident Training Workshop for the Caribbean

Cabinet noted a report on the outcome of the Chemical Incident Training Workshop for the Caribbean held in Runaway Bay, St. Ann, over the period 14-18 October 2013. The report informed that participants were exposed to the general principles outlined in Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention; properties and effects of toxic chemicals; emergency planning techniques and appropriate responses to chemical threats.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
5 February 2014