

**CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 10 FEBRUARY 2014**

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 10 February 2014:

1. Contracts;
2. Board Appointment;
3. Establishment of a National Registry of Entertainment Practitioners;
4. Framework Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Cooperation in Defence Related Matters; and
5. Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters; and
6. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1) Contracts

(i) Road Maintenance Fund – Routine Maintenance Programme

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of \$68,001,286.50 to General Paving Company Limited for the execution of road rehabilitation works on the road section in the parish of St. Catherine from the Bayside Roundabout to Waterford.

The road section is being rehabilitated due to numerous potholes and depressions which make it extremely difficult for the motoring public. Also, the road shoulders have large areas where ponding occurs when it rains making it virtually impossible for pedestrians to go about their normal business.

(ii) Renewal of Hardware and Software Services

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,560,990.86, inclusive of tax, to Port Computer Services (PCS) Limited, for the renewal of hardware and software services for the Kingston Container Terminal (KCT) and the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) for a two (2) year period.

PCS is a subsidiary of the Shipping Association of Jamaica and was established in 1981 to provide information technology infrastructure, systems and support services to the local port community and the wider Caribbean maritime sector. PCS has been providing information technology services to the PAJ since 1981, starting with the payroll and invoicing system. In 1987, PCS developed and provided the Terminal Information Control System for KCT's operations.

(iii) Construction of Houses at Stokes Hall, St. Thomas

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of \$491,260,060.00 to Chin's Construction Company Limited for the construction of houses at Stokes Hall, St. Thomas, under the Barracks Relocation Project of the Sugar Transformation Programme.

The Government of Jamaica has received financial support towards its budget from the European Union to be applied to the Sugar Transformation Programme. The Barracks Relocation Project is a component of this programme.

2) Board Appointments

International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Science

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following members of the Board for a period of one (1) year with effect from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014:

- (1) Professor Gerald Lalor – **Chairman**;
- (2) Dr. the Honourable Carlton Davis – **Deputy Chairman**;
- (3) Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa;
- (4) Professor Jerome Nriagu;
- (5) Dr. Simon Clarke;
- (6) Professor Edward Robinson; and
- (7) Mr. Parris Lyew-Ayee.

3) Establishment of a National Registry of Entertainment Practitioners

Cabinet approved the introduction of a National Registry of Entertainment Practitioners.

A registry of persons engaged in the Entertainment Industry was first conceived within a variety of contexts including the National Cultural Policy of 2003, the Draft Entertainment Industry Encouragement Act, and as a part of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. The registry is intended to be the central portal for information on the industry, and further aims at facilitating free movement through authenticating the legitimacy of persons within the industry including artistes, service providers and sectors of support for entertainment.

4) Framework Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Cooperation in Defence Related Matters

Cabinet approved the Framework Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on Cooperation in Defence Related Matters.

The Agreement would serve as a platform for future defence related cooperation between the armed forces of Jamaica and Brazil; and would allow for cooperation, especially in the fields of research and development, logistics support and acquisition of defence products and services; exchange of knowledge and experiences; mutual military education and training in joint exercises; and cooperation in other fields of defence that may be of interest to both countries.

5) Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters

Cabinet approved the Agreement between Government of Jamaica and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Exchange of Information on Tax Matters.

Section 83 of the Income Tax Act empowers the Minister responsible for Finance to enter into arrangements with Governments of any territory outside of the Island with a view to affording relief from double taxation in relation to Income Tax or for the exchange of information for tax purposes. The Agreement will facilitate the effective exchange of tax information between Jamaican tax authorities and their counterparts in Brazil, and would also cement administrative cooperation on tax issues and facilitate the ability of both countries to monitor their taxpayers and appropriate the revenue owed to each jurisdiction.

6) Public Procurement Capacity Strengthening Programme

Cabinet gave approval for the implementation of the Government of Jamaica Public Procurement Capacity Strengthening Programme.

The Public Procurement Capacity Strengthening Programme will be designed to strengthen the capacity of public procurement practitioners by establishing standardised and structured procurement training at each level of the procurement process. The courses will be designed to cover all areas of public procurement – the context of the Jamaican legislative and regulatory framework through to the international best practices, and will include skills development from operational application to strategic public procurement contract management.

7) Reports

(i) 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO):

Cabinet noted a report on the 28<sup>th</sup> Session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), held 25 November to 4 December 2013 in London, United Kingdom. The report provided information on Jamaica's re-election to Category C of the Council of the IMO for the 2014-2015 Biennium, the signature of the Jamaica/Singapore Air Services Agreement, and the report on the Jamaica Marine Administration and regional activities that the country is involved in.

(ii) Proceedings Concerning the Welfare of Children at the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations

Cabinet noted a report on the participation of the Minister of Youth and Culture in the proceedings concerning the welfare of children at the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations on 17 October 2014.

The report provided summary information on the deliberations of the Third Committee on national and targeted initiatives to further the protection of children; the report presented by Jamaica to the Third Committee on strategies implemented to safeguard children; discussions at the Roundtable on challenges in combating violence against children, the identification of poor parenting and conflict with civil society as being major issues, and measures implemented to overcome the challenges; the agreement at the Roundtable on the imperative to forge alliances with stakeholders within and across regions and organise regional meetings and/or conferences to facilitate collaborative efforts; and the first regional event scheduled for May 2014 – the Inter-Regional Conference on the Protection of Children From Violence.

(iii) Observations From the Recent Travel of a Government of Jamaica Delegation to China

Cabinet noted a report on the high level discussions held during the period 13 to 22 December 2013 with authorities in the Chinese Government at the Ministerial and state departmental levels as well as with officials in private institutions and firms involved in investment overseas.

The report informed of the activities and discussions, including the: main components of the Economic Reform Programme and the achievements made; opportunities for an expanded economic relationship to the mutual benefit of Jamaica and China and the need for Jamaica to do more to enhance its state of preparedness and to expand Chinese knowledge of Jamaica and its economic prospects at both the sovereign and project levels; limitations of Jamaica's current debt profile with respect to the ability of the country to access current arrangements for Chinese assistance, as well as the way forward for Chinese firms to increase equity investment in Jamaica; and strategic importance of Jamaica as a place from which Chinese firms could access large and growing markets, given its location on the east-west and north-south trading lanes.

(iv) Update on the Implementation of Recommendations to Improve the Conditions of Children in Detention

Cabinet noted a report on the implementation of recommendations for improving the conditions of children in detention. The report provided information on the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Working Group which included:

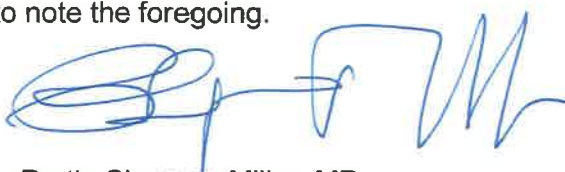
- (1) creation of safe and adequate juvenile facilities;
- (2) strengthening of the operational capacity of state institutions;
- (3) development of educational and skills training programmes; and
- (4) revision of legislation.

Information was also provided on the progress made in implementing each of the four (4) recommendations; including the establishment of a sub-committee of the Working Group to address the educational deficiencies identified in juvenile facilities and the removal from the juvenile criminal justice system of children deemed beyond control.

(v) Unite for Change Programme

Cabinet noted a report from on the implementation of the Unite for Change Programme (UFC). The report highlighted that UFC was developed in order to carry out the programme of work that was set out in the National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy (NCPCSS). The report advised that the main purpose of the UFC was to mobilise the whole society in a coordinated approach around the shared goal of creating a more caring, gentle and safe society.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP  
Prime Minister  
21 February 2014