

**CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 17 FEBRUARY 2014**

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 17 February 2014:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Right of Appeal by the Prosecution Against Acquittal in Criminal Cases;
5. Consideration of Jamaica's Nomination for Re-election to the International Civil Service Commission;
6. Event Rating System for the Entertainment Industry; and
7. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1) Contracts

(i) Harbour Street Craft Market Refurbishing Works (Phase II)

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of \$44,241,677.00 to Marshall Construction Company, for the execution of repairs to the Harbour Street Craft Market in Montego Bay, St. James.

In 2009 the Tourism Product Development Company facilitated the renovation of 127 shops in the Harbour Street Craft Market in Montego Bay, along with the associated external works. The remaining portion of the market has since deteriorated and lacks the requisite aesthetic appeal for its location which is along the major thoroughfare.

(ii) Acquisition of Security Services

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of \$96,769,080.00 to Guardsman Limited, for the provision of security services to the Child Development Agency (CDA) for a period of three years.

The CDA is seeking to procure security services as the current contract has expired. Security services are needed for the protection of staff members given the location of the CDA facilities and the history of incidents that have occurred at these places.

2) Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Bureau of Standards Jamaica for the Financial Year 2012/2013; and
- (ii) Firearm Licensing Authority for the period 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013.

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

3) Board Appointments

(i) Jamaica Tourist Board Tribunal

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Tribunal of the Jamaica Tourist Board, with effect from 17 February 2014 to 16 February 2016:

- (1) Major General John Simmonds;
- (2) Mr. Aldine Bellinfante; and
- (3) Ms. Nicole Allen.

(ii) Postal Corporation of Jamaica Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors for a period of two years with effect from 17 February 2014 to 16 February 2016:

- (1) Mr. Lance Hylton – **Chairman**;
- (2) Mr. Patrick Gentles – **ex-officio**;
- (3) Mr. Patrick McDonald;
- (4) Mr. Cecil McCain;
- (5) Reverend Webster Edwards;
- (6) Ms. Sheryl Markland;
- (7) Ms. Florizelle O'Connor;
- (8) Mr. Ian Kelly;
- (9) Mr. Jomo Pitterson
- (10) Mr. Andrew Graham;
- (11) Ms. Hilary Reid; and
- (12) Mr. Vassell Brown.

(iii) Trade Board Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Mrs. Andrene Collins and Ms. Rosalyn Campbell to the Board of Directors of the Trade Board Limited, with effect from 17 February 2014 to 1 June 2014 when the tenure of the existing Board would expire.

(iv) University Hospital of the West Indies

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Dr. Blossom Anglin-Brown to the Board of Management of the University Hospital of the West Indies, with effect from 10 February 2014 to 13 May 2015 when the tenure of the existing Board would expire.

4) Right of Appeal by the Prosecution Against Acquittal in Criminal Cases

Cabinet gave approval of the recommendation for the provision of a limited right of appeal by the prosecution against a sentence, where the sentence was manifestly inadequate or unduly lenient, or if the Court did not have the power to pass the sentence. Cabinet also granted approval for the issue of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel.

Under the present law, the prosecution has no right of appeal against a verdict of acquittal in criminal proceedings, or against the imposition of an inappropriately lenient sentence. The common law rule of double jeopardy has traditionally formed the basis on which the prosecution has been denied a general right of appeal.

5) Consideration of Jamaica's Nomination for Re-election to the International Civil Service Commission

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's nomination of Mrs. Carleen Gardner for re-election to the International Civil Service Commission for the period 2015 to 2018.

The International Civil Service Commission was established by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1974, as an independent expert body with the mandate to regulate and coordinate the conditions of service of staff within the UN and its specialised agencies and other international organisations that participate in the UN common system.

6) Event Rating System for the Entertainment Industry

Cabinet approved the introduction of an Event Rating System for the entertainment industry and the submission of a report on the effectiveness of the system after six months of implementation.

The standard and quality of entertainment events being staged across the island are varied. As such, it has become necessary to impose standards for events at which the public is being charged a fee or invited to attend. The Event Rating System will provide consumers of the more than 22,000 events staged in Jamaica each year with an opportunity to vet (by way of pre-published information) the types of events to which they or persons within their care are exposed.

7) Reports

(i) Performance of the Scrap Metal Trade Since its Reopening and Recommendations to Enhance Operations

Cabinet noted a report on the performance of the scrap metal trade. The report informed that since the reopening of the trade there had been scrap metal exports of 160,819 metric tonnes at a value of approximately US\$14.61million; direct and indirect employment of some 2,000 persons; significant reduction in reported metal theft *vis-à-vis* 2010 and 2011; and interest shown by other countries in the model implemented by Jamaica.

The report advised that the focus for the future was improving technologies and operational efficiencies. The report also highlighted that, if scrap metal exports were properly managed in the context of the global supply chain, the trade could be sustainable, create employment, generate foreign exchange, and clear the environment of unsightly scrap.

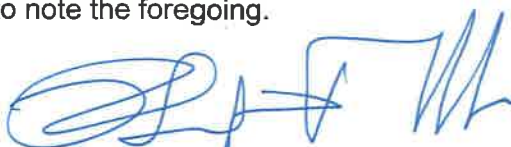
(ii) Highlights of Students' Performance in the 2013 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Advance Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)

Cabinet noted a report on the improved performance of Jamaican students in the 2013 Caribbean Examinations Council's Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) in individual subjects and overall.

The report highlighted the improved performance of students in the subject areas of English and Mathematics; need for further improved performance overall and in subject passes; performance targets and initiatives therefor; need for focus in the schools on student development and learning, rather than just passing exit examinations; significant financial loss of some \$20 million per year that accrued to the Government yearly from students whose examination registration fees were paid for by the Government, but who did not sit the examinations; action taken by the Ministry of Education to address that problem; and initiatives for assistance to students, where affordability was a problem.

The report also advised of planned initiatives relating to science, technical subjects and mathematics, including providing at least one fully equipped multipurpose and integrated laboratory in each secondary school, starting with the technical schools.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP  
Prime Minister  
12 March 2014