

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 24 FEBRUARY 2014

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 24 February 2014:

1. Contracts;
2. Land Acquisition;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointment;
5. Proposal to Incorporate the Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF) into the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF);
6. Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Sports and Recreation;
7. Investiture of a Poet Laureate for Jamaica; and
8. Report on the Rationalisation of Small Schools.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1) Contracts

(i) Supply of Data Centre Infrastructure as a Service and Co-location Services

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$2,351,914.00 to Digicel Jamaica Limited, for the supply of data centre infrastructure as a service and co-location services for a period of three years.

eGov Jamaica Limited (eGovJa) is a Government of Jamaica owned company that provides Information and Communication Technology services to other Ministries, Departments and Agencies. In keeping with its mandate to improve the reliability of its systems, eGovJa embarked on a project to procure co-location and managed services.

(ii) Renewal of Maintenance and Support Software Contract

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Fiserv Incorporated in the amount of US\$793,703.79, for the renewal of maintenance and support services for the Signature ABT/Teller software for a period of one year commencing 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2015.

The National Housing Trust (NHT) utilises several information systems in the course of its operations in order to increase its efficiency in delivering required services to both its internal and external customers. These systems support various aspects of the NHT's operations and are critical to its functions.

(iii) Sour Sop Turn to Chapelton, Clarendon Rural Roads Rehabilitation Works

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$1,278,501,859.05 to Asphaltic Concrete Enterprise Limited in joint venture with General Paving Company

Limited, to carry out road rehabilitation works on 10.5 km of the Sour Sop Turn to the Chapelton road section in the parish of Clarendon.

The rehabilitation works are being undertaken due to the derelict condition of the roadway and the need to improve road safety, given the presence of numerous schools in the vicinity.

(iv) Construction of Additional Classroom Blocks at Selected High Schools

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$115,359,937.00 to Tropical Metal Products Limited, for the construction of additional classroom blocks at selected high schools.

The Ministry of Education has been on a drive to construct additional classroom blocks at schools deemed overcrowded in order to alleviate the problem in a cost-effective and timely manner.

2) Land Acquisition

Compulsory Acquisition of Unregistered Lands Part of Charlton and Ivy, St. Catherine

Cabinet gave approval for the National Water Commission to:

- (i) compulsorily acquire all that unregistered parcel of land, part of Charlton and Ivy, in the parish of St. Catherine containing by survey 3,669.108 square metres; and
- (ii) make payment of market value to the individuals presently in possession of sections of the identified lands.

The lands are being acquired to facilitate the completion of the Ewarton Water Supply, which is a component of the Jamaica Water Supply Improvement Programme.

3) Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (ii) National Housing Trust for the Financial Year 2012/2013; and
- (iii) National Works Agency for the Financial Year 2009/2010.

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

4) Board Appointment

Jamaica Vacations Limited

Cabinet designated Senator Noel Sloley, a current member of the Board of Directors of the Jamaica Vacations Limited, to act as Chairman of the Board with effect from 24 February 2014 to 2 April 2014.

5) Proposal to Incorporate the Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF) into the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)

Cabinet approved the:

- (i) incorporation of the Island Special Constabulary Force (ISCF) into the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF);
- (ii) introduction of new legislation, subsequent to the merger of both Forces, to provide for a repeal of all the relevant legislation that related specifically to the Island Special Constabulary Force; as well as relevant provisions contained in other legislation; and
- (iii) issue of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel accordingly.

A number of studies conducted over the last two decades have recommended the merger of the ISCF and JCF to make them more efficient, effective and professional in service delivery.

6) Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on Bilateral Cooperation in the Field of Sports and Recreation

Cabinet approved the execution of a Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Republic of Antigua and Barbuda in the field of sports and recreation.

The Agreement provides the framework within which detailed proposals for programmes of cooperation in the field of sport and recreation, at both developmental and high performance levels, may be considered by both countries on a reciprocal and mutually beneficial basis. It also has the potential for Jamaica to reap significant economic gains through the provision of technical assistance in the area of sport and recreation, and through the provision of education and training.

7) Investiture of a Poet Laureate for Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the:

- (i) investiture of a Poet Laureate on 3 April 2014 at King's House, the first to be so designated in Jamaica in 60 years; and
- (ii) National Library of Jamaica to be the Secretariat for the Poet Laureate programme.

Poet Laureate is often a designation conferred upon a distinguished published poet. That person in turn, is given the task of promoting poetry and its appreciation among the populace, including the reading, writing and studying of the art form.

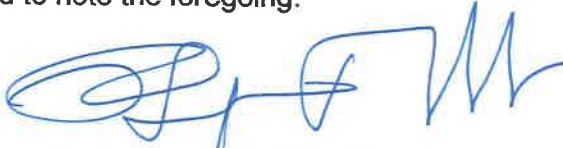
8) Report on the Rationalisation of Small Schools

Cabinet noted a report on the rationalisation of small schools. The report advised that the Ministry of Education had embarked on a process of assessing schools with small populations, from a low of 8 to a maximum of 100 students each, with a view to determining their future viability.

It further advised that there were 212 public schools offering primary education (primary, all age, primary and junior high) that were underutilised, with enrolment of 100 students or less.

The report provided information on the issues that affect the viability of the schools, recommendations for treating with the schools, initiatives to date, and the financial considerations in effecting the rationalisation exercise.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
12 March 2014