

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 24 MARCH 2014

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

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation Matters;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointment;
5. Land Matters;
6. Re-election of Jamaica to the Council of the International Seabed Authority;
7. Chairmanship by Jamaica of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean;
8. Hosting of a United Nations Regional Meeting in Jamaica;
9. Inter-Ministerial Consultation on Tobacco and Trade;
10. Programme for Emancipation/Independence Celebrations 2014; and
11. Report.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1) Contracts

(i) Kingston Metropolitan Area (KMA) Water Supply Improvement Programme

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to M&M Jamaica Limited in the amount of \$1,078,543,631.22, for the development of an Artificial Recharge Ground Water System under the KMA Water Supply Improvement Programme.

The works comprise the establishment of facilities to increase the underground potential in the limestone aquifer by treating and discharging surplus surface water into sinkholes and wells, in order to sustain the abstraction of wells located in the area due west of Spanish Town.

(ii) Procurement of Reagents and Consumables

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,214,377.00 to DiaMed-Caribbean Incorporated, for the supply of reagents and consumables to the Blood Transfusion Service of the Public Health Laboratory for a period of two years.

The Blood Transfusion Service provides a range of laboratory services that support the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases as well as the characterisation of blood types (A, B, O, and RhD) related to the cross match process for blood donors and recipients in transfusion procedures.

(iii) Performance Based Routine Maintenance of the Northern Coastal Highway

Cabinet approved a follow-on contract in the amount of \$60 million to the National Works Agency, for the continuous bushing and drain cleaning activities along the Northern Coastal Highway from Port Antonio to Negril.

The planned works will include the removal of all undergrowth, roots, silt and debris along the Northern Coastal Highway, an approximately 280 km long corridor that traverses seven parishes.

(iv) Design and Installation of Lights at Sabina Park

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$2,752,817.63 to the Fosrich Group of Companies for the design and installation of lights at Sabina Park and associated works.

Sabina Park is one of the pre-eminent Cricket Stadia in the Caribbean with a long and notable history having hosted numerous international cricket matches. Whilst the stadium was refurbished to host matches in the 2007 Cricket World Cup, the installation of lights was not a part of that project. The Government of India is providing bilateral support for the design and installation of lights at Sabina Park.

2) Legislation Matters

(i) The Banking Services Act, 2014

Cabinet gave approval for the introduction into the Houses of Parliament of the Bill entitled "The Banking Services Act, 2014".

The Bill seeks to enhance the supervision of deposit-taking institutions in line with international principles and requirements, increase the supervisory independence of the Bank of Jamaica, and repeal and/or consolidate related financial legislation governing deposit-taking institutions.

(ii) The Employment (Flexible Work Arrangements) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014

Cabinet gave approval for the introduction into the Houses of Parliament of the Bill entitled "The Employment (Flexible Work Arrangements) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2014".

The Bill seeks to facilitate the implementation of flexible work arrangements in Jamaica by amending legislation which prescribed and/or limited the hours and days of work.

3) Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) National Library of Jamaica for the Financial Years 2008/2009 and 2009/2010;
- (ii) Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management for the Financial Years 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012, and 2012/2013; and
- (iii) Ports Management and Security Limited for the Financial Years 2004/2005, 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009, 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013.

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

4) Board Appointment

Professional Engineers Registration Board

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Peter Morais to the Professional Engineers Registration Board, with effect from 24 March 2014 to 12 August 2014 when the tenure of the current Board would expire.

5) Land Matters

(i) Purchase of Property by the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education Fund

Cabinet approved the purchase by the Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education (CHASE) Fund of property located at 8 Belmont Road, Kingston 5 from the Jamaica National Fund Managers/JNBS Pension Fund Trustees Nominee Limited, at a total cost of \$80 million in order to establish its permanent corporate office.

Over the last 10 years the company has outgrown the 3,674 square feet office space which it rents at 52-60 Grenada Crescent. Consequently, the management and Board of Directors decided that it would be prudent to purchase a property that would adequately accommodate its staff, customers, library, storage area, and parking facilities.

(ii) Approval for Amendment to Lease Between the St. James Parish Council and Waterfront Investment Limited for Property Known as Cornwall Beach Located at Gloucester Avenue, Montego Bay, St. James

Cabinet approved proposed amendments to the lease between the St. James Parish Council and Waterfront Investment Limited in respect of property owned by the Council known as Cornwall Beach located at Gloucester Avenue, Montego Bay, St. James.

By way of an Agreement dated 9 February 2006, the St James Parish Council leased to Waterfront Investment Limited the property known as Cornwall Beach located at Gloucester Avenue, Montego Bay, St James for a term of 15 years. It commenced on 1 March 2006 and was due to expire on 9 February 2021. The lease is being revised to make provision for the further development of the property and the extension of the lease to 30 years.

6) Re-election of Jamaica to the Council of the International Seabed Authority

Cabinet approved the proposal for Jamaica to put forward its candidature for re-election to Category D membership of the Council of the International Seabed Authority for the period 2015-2018 at elections scheduled to take place during the 20th Session of the Authority, in July 2014.

The International Seabed Authority is an autonomous international organisation established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1994 Agreement relating the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The International Seabed Authority is headquartered in Kingston and came into existence on 16 November 1994, on the entry into force of the 1982 Convention. There are 164 members of the Authority.

7) Chairmanship by Jamaica of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean

Cabinet approved Jamaica's chairmanship of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) of the United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the hosting of meetings consequent on the chairmanship.

The CDCC is an intergovernmental subsidiary organ of the United Nations ECLAC. The latter is one of five Regional Commissions, which are organs of the United Nations, created to ensure on-going assessment and monitoring of the development challenges of Member States through a region-sensitive lens, while promoting and facilitating the search for solutions from a regionally-based platform for action, within the framework of the United Nations System.

8) Hosting of a United Nations Regional Meeting in Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's hosting of the United Nations Cross-Regional Meeting in Kingston on 20 to 21 May 2014 to examine and share experiences towards the prevention and elimination of violence against children.

The 2014 Cross-Regional Meeting, which is being organized in collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence Against Children, seeks to provide an avenue through which dialogue can take place and experiences exchanged, towards the promotion and protection of children against violence in participating countries. The dialogue will also focus on how Jamaica and the other Member States have performed against recommendations from the 3rd Regional Meeting in 2012.

9) Inter-Ministerial Consultation on Tobacco and Trade

Cabinet noted that an Inter-Ministerial Consultation on Tobacco and Trade, hosted by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), was scheduled for 1 to 2 April 2014 in Kingston.

The event would bring together governmental representatives from Ministries responsible for Health and Trade and other relevant sectors to discuss the nexus between tobacco and trade, particularly with a focus on bringing the tobacco-related health and trade agendas closer together at the national level.

10) Programme for Emancipation/Independence Celebrations 2014

Cabinet noted the proposed programme of activities, which is being funded jointly by Government and the private sector, and agreed that Ministries should organise commemorative activities. Cabinet further agreed that schools should be involved in the programme of activities and approved the theme "Land of My Birth" for the Independence Grand Gala 2014.

The activities are in keeping with the Culture and Creative Industries and Value Sector Plan (Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan), which highlights that culture is crucial for giving people a sense of identity and belonging that gives meaning to efforts to

reconstruct our nation. This is central to the country's social and economic renewal as it progresses towards developed country status.

11) Report

Update on Outcomes of the Mission to India February 2014

Cabinet noted a report on the Ministerial Mission to Mumbai, India for the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) India Leadership Forum which was held over the period 9 to 15 February 2014.

The report advised of the objectives of the Mission which were, among other things, to engage prospective investors in the Information Technology and Business Process Outsourcing, share information and garner strategic interest in Jamaica's Logistics Hub Initiative, and participate in the annual NASSCOM Leadership Forum; the achievement of the objectives; and the intention to invite the NASSCOM Council to hold its next meeting in Jamaica.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
9 April 2014