

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 28 APRIL 2014

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 28 April 2014:

1. Annual Reports; and
2. Other Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1) Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Administrator General's Department for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (ii) Health Corporation Limited for the Financial Year 2010/2011;
- (iii) Jamaica Bauxite Mining Limited for the Financial Years 2009/2010, 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013; and
- (iv) National Health Fund for the Financial Year 2012/2013.

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

2) Other Reports

- (i) Outcome of the Second Meeting of the UNAIDS and LANCET Commission: From AIDS to Sustainable Health

Cabinet noted a report on the outcome of the Second Meeting of the UNAIDS and Lancet Commission under the theme *Defeating AIDS-Advancing Global Health* held in London, England, during the period 12 to 14 February 2014.

The report provided a detailed summary of the meeting, particularly, the development of the action-oriented recommendations of the three (3) overarching issues of immediate interest to the Commission:

- What will it take to bring about the end of AIDS?
- How can the experience of the AIDS response serve as a transformative force in the approach to global health?
- How can the global health and AIDS response architecture be modernised in the framework of a more equitable, effective and sustainable global health paradigm?

The report also shared the statement issued by the Prime Minister to the meeting which provided information on, among other things, Jamaica's achievements in the fight against HIV; and the contributions made by Jamaica to the debate on the HIV agenda as well as the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral partnerships.

(ii) Curriculum Review

Cabinet noted a report on the steps taken by the Ministry of Education to revise the primary and secondary curricula to enable improvements in the quality of teaching and learning, to maximise the potential of all Jamaicans.

The report informed that the last revision of the curricula was in the late 1990s and the technological growth and social change since then have made it necessary to initiate an overhaul of the current curriculum development methods and practices. It further informed of the review, commissioned in 2008, of the curricula for Grades 1 to 9 and the Grade Six Achievement Test (GSAT); the findings therefrom which were presented in 2011; and the conclusion reached by the review, that the GSAT profile should be revised to allow for a more fulsome picture of the competences of a child leaving primary school.

The report also advised of the launch of the Formative Pilot of the draft National Standard Curriculum in twenty-three (23) public schools in Grades 4-6 and the intention to further expand the pilot in the ensuing school year.

The Honourable House is asked to note the forgoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
14 May 2014