

MINISTRY PAPER No. 10 - 2015
entitled
CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 2 DECEMBER 2014

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 2 December 2014:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. The Review of the Development Application Process;
5. Policy Framework and Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government-Owned Lands; and
6. Forest Policy for Jamaica.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Procurement of Motor Vehicles

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Toyota Jamaica Limited in the amount of \$58,260,819.94, for the supply of 11 motor vehicles for the Department of Correctional Services as under:

- (a) six Toyota Hiace Buses;
- (b) two Toyota Coaster Buses;
- (c) two Toyota Double-Cab Pick-Up Trucks; and
- (d) one Toyota Rav 4.

Transportation plays a critical role in the day-to-day functions of the Department, and there is urgent need to acquire efficient and fit-for-purpose vehicles to replace some of the Department's aging fleet of vehicles.

(ii) Development of an Application System

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to PricewaterhouseCoopers Tax Advisory Services Limited, Jamaica, in the amount of US\$1,643,122, for the provision of consultancy services for the development of an application for the re-engineered pension administration system.

The re-engineered system is anticipated to provide a more efficient way to manage the country's public pension administration and management system, by modernizing the pension system to allow for better forecasting and budget control, more timely processing of applications for pension benefits and greater access to records by pensioners.

(iii) Procurement of Three Fire Trucks

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Rosenbauer America, through its local agent National Safety Limited, in the amount of US\$1,412,325.99, for the supply of three fire trucks for the Jamaica Fire Brigade.

The insufficient number of fire-fighting units and frequent mechanical failure of the units in the aging fleet have been impeding the capacity of the Brigade carry out its operational functions effectively. The new trucks are needed to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the delivery of fire services throughout the country.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Creative Production and Training Centre for the financial year 2011/2012;
- (ii) Jamaica Reservation Service Limited for the financial year 2005/2006;
- (iii) Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited for the financial year 2011/2012;
- (iv) Jamaica Vacations Limited for the financial years 2005/2006, 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009, and 2009/2010; and
- (v) Planning Institute of Jamaica for the year ended 31 December 2013.

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

3. Board Appointments

(i) Black River Hospital Management Committee

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Locksley White as Chairman of the Management Committee with effect from 2 December 2014, to 26 November 2015.

(ii) Council of the Community Colleges of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons as additional members of the Council with effect from 2 December 2014, to 28 February 2015:

1. Mr. Marlon Palmer;
2. Mrs. Jennifer Walker;
3. Rev. Dr. Gordon Cowans; and
4. Mrs. Mary Simmonds.

(iii) Legal Aid Council

Cabinet approved the following with effect from 2 December 2014, to 17 April 2015:

- a. the appointment of current member of the Board, Miss Jacqueline Cummings, as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Council; and
- b. the appointment of the following persons as additional members of the Board:
 1. Ms. Michelle Champagne;
 2. Ms. Monique Harrison Beckford; and
 3. Dr. Anna Perkins.

(iv) Medical Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Tribunal for a period of two years with effect from 2 December 2014, to 1 December 2016:

1. Dr. Guyan Arscott – Chairman;
2. Mr. Norman Minott; and
3. Mr. Novar McDonald.

(v) Mental Health Review Board for the Southern Regional Health Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Review Board for a period of three years with effect from 2 December 2014, to 1 December 2017:

1. Mr. Donald Gittens – Chairman;
2. Dr. Doreth Garvey;
3. Dr. Rose-Marie Wilson;
4. Mrs. Marcia Mullings-Thompson; and
5. Rev. Zareal Williams.

(vi) Professions Supplementary to Medicine Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Tribunal for a period of two years with effect from 2 December 2014, to 1 December 2016:

1. Dr. Andrei Cooke – Chairman;
2. Mr. Anthony Pearson; and
3. Mr. Rudolph Wallace.

(vii) Savanna-la-mar Public General Hospital Management Committee

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Balvin Leslie as Chairman of the Management Committee with effect from 2 December 2014, to 23 June 2016.

4. The Review of the Development Applications Process to Reduce the Time Taken for Assessment and Decision-Making

Cabinet approved the proposals to be implemented for the improvement of the Development Applications Process. The proposals approved consist of time-bound deliverables as well as monitoring and accountability arrangements to increase the efficiency of the process, thereby reducing the time taken to process subdivision and development applications over the short and medium terms.

5. Policy Framework and Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government-Owned Lands

Cabinet approved the proposed Policy Framework and Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government-Owned Lands.

It is important that the process for the privatization of Government-owned lands be regulated with appropriate policy and procedures that encourage sustainable use and efficient distribution and management of finite resources. The Policy will allow for increased transparency and efficiency in the process by which Government-owned lands are divested.

6. Forest Policy for Jamaica

Cabinet approved the Forest Policy for Jamaica and its tabling in Parliament as a Green Paper.

The Policy outlines the vision, principles and goals relating to Jamaica's forestry sector. It addresses:

- (i) the national priorities for forests including conservation, protection and reforestation of forest ecosystems;

- (ii) the need for forests to be supportive of rural livelihoods and to be developed for recreational uses; and
- (iii) the priority areas for reform and for expanding the jurisdiction of the Department.

The Forest Policy seeks to improve and expand the mandate of the Forestry Department, implement new initiatives to achieve national and international obligations, and ensure collaboration between the relevant stakeholders on decision-making relevant to Jamaica's forests.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister

20 January 2015