

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 15 DECEMBER 2014

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15 December 2014:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Sale of Land;
6. The Inclusion of Concrete Solutions as an Option in Road Construction and Rehabilitation Works;
7. Consideration of Jamaica's Nominee for Election to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD);
8. The Establishment of an Interim Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency and the Appointment of the Supervisor of Insolvency; and
9. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Provision of Liquid Chlorine

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Jones Chemical Inc. in the amount of US\$5,082,217.80, for the provision of liquid chlorine to the National Water Commission (NWC) for the period 2014 – 2017.

It is essential for the NWC to maintain stocks of liquid chlorine in adequate amounts as it is used as the disinfectant for all the water supplies of the Commission.

(ii) Repair of Paver Block Pavement

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Surrey Paving and Aggregate Company Limited in the amount of \$70,447,690.00, for the repair of the Paver Block Pavement, Phase 5, at the Kingston Container Terminal.

The repairs are necessary to significantly reduce the wear and tear being caused to the equipment of the Kingston Container Terminal from the deformation of the surface.

(iii) Co-Management Kingston and St. Andrew Non-Revenue Water Reduction Contract

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to MIYA Water Projects Netherlands B.V. & BBL Engenharia Construcao e Comercio Ltda (MIYA) in the amount of US\$42.5 million, for procurement relating to the Co-Management Kingston and St. Andrew Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction Contract.

The Contract will lead to a reduction of NRW, which is at unacceptably high levels, as well as facilitate knowledge transfer to NWC employees to ensure the sustainability of outcomes.

2. Legislation

(i) Administrator-General's (Amendment) Act, 2014

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Administrator-General's (Amendment) Act, 2014" to be introduced in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Administrator-General's Act and certain other Acts to effect the reform of laws relating to the administration of estates, and to grant the Administrator-General special powers to issue an Instrument of Administration and an Instrument of Distribution in relation to certain estates.

(ii) The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2014

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2014" to be introduced in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to strengthen and clarify certain aspects of the Enhanced Fiscal Rules.

(iii) The Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2014

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Public Bodies Management and Accountability (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2014", to be introduced in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to strengthen and clarify certain aspects of the Enhanced Fiscal Rules.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Bath Corporation (Bath Fountain Hotel and Spa) for the financial year 2009/2010;
- (ii) Bauxite and Alumina Trading Company of Jamaica Limited for the financial years 2011/2012 and 2012/2013;
- (iii) Bureau of Standards, Jamaica for the financial year 2013/2014;
- (iv) Cocoa Industry Board for the year ended 30 September 2012;
- (v) Devon House Development Company Limited for the financial year 2010/2011;
- (vi) Jamaica Mortgage Bank for the financial year 2013/2014;
- (vii) Jamaica Reservation Service Limited for the financial year 2006/2007;
- (viii) Jamaica Tourist Board for the financial year 2012/2013;
- (ix) Milk River Bath for the financial years 2005/2006 and 2006/2007;
- (x) Tourism Product Development Company Limited for the financial year 2012/2013; and
- (xi) Trade Board Limited for the financial year 2012/2013.

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

4. Board Appointments

(i) Mental Health Review Board for the North East Regional Health Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three years with effect from 15 December 2014, to 14 December 2017:

- 1) Mr. Oswest Senior Smith – **Chairman**;
- 2) Dr. Bertilee Burgess;
- 3) Ms. Barbara Burke;
- 4) Ms. Philmore Spencer; and
- 5) Lt. Col. Errol V. Johnson.

(ii) Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of two years with effect from 15 December 2014, to 14 December 2016:

- 1) Dr. Cliff Riley – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Sharon Mae Shirley;
- 3) Dr. Clive Anderson;
- 4) Mr. Reginald Nugent;
- 5) Mr. Maurice McGlashin;
- 6) Mr. Andre Jones;
- 7) Mr. Leo Williams;
- 8) Professor Ishenkumba Khahwa;
- 9) Mr. Vermont Murray;
- 10) Mr. Don McGlashan;
- 11) Mr. Linden Nugent; and
- 12) Mr. Esmond Reid.

(iii) Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO)

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of two years with effect from 15 December 2014, to 14 December 2016:

- 1) Mr. Milton Samuda – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Eugene Ffolkes – **Vice Chairman**;
- 3) Mr. Ray Goldbourne;
- 4) Mr. Reginald Nugent;
- 5) Ms. Marjorie Seeberan;
- 6) Bishop Howard Gregory;
- 7) Mr. Jeffrey Hall;
- 8) Mr. Norman Horne;
- 9) Ms. Keisha Burgher;
- 10) Mr. Byron Blake;
- 11) Dr. Myrtle Weir;
- 12) Mr. Steven Whittingham;
- 13) Ms. Marjorie Kennedy;
- 14) Mr. Michael McMorris; and
- 15) Ms. Diane Edwards.

(iv) Jamaica Customs Agency

Cabinet approved:

- (i) the amended dates for the appointment of the Advisory Board for a period of three (3) years with effect from 6 January 2014, to 31 December 2016; and
- (ii) the appointment of Mr. Warren McDonald to the Advisory Board to serve in the capacity of Chairman, with effect from 15 December 2014 to 31 December 2016.

5. Sale of Land

Cabinet gave approval for the sale by the Banana Board of the Palmetto Grove property in St. Mary to Mrs. Naomi Blair-Davis in the amount of \$890,000.00.

The property had previously housed a public banana boxing plant, which has now ceased operations.

6. The Inclusion of Concrete Solutions as an Option in Road Construction and Rehabilitation Works

Cabinet gave approval for the formal inclusion of concrete solutions among the options for road construction and rehabilitation projects.

Concrete has been used in road construction and rehabilitation works in North America and Europe for many years. The increased use of concrete solutions on Jamaican roads is anticipated to produce road surfaces which are stronger and more durable and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

7. Consideration of Jamaica's Nominee for Election to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Cabinet approved Jamaica's nomination of Professor Verene A. Shepherd, CD, for election to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) for the period 2016 to 2020.

The CERD is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by its State parties. The elections for the CERD will be held in June 2015 during the 26th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention in New York.

8. The Establishment of an Interim Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency and the Appointment of the Supervisor of Insolvency

In order to give effect to the Insolvency Act, 2014, Cabinet approved:

- (i) establishment of an Interim Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency with appropriate levels of funding by the Ministry of Finance and Planning;
- (ii) designation of the current Trustee in Bankruptcy as the Government Trustee under the Insolvency Act on an interim basis;

- (iii) housing of the Interim Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency in the current offices of the Trustee in Bankruptcy, and the provision of technical and administrative support by the existing staff;
- (iv) provision of any additional technical and administrative support by the Financial Services Commission, as necessary; and
- (v) appointment of a Supervisor of Insolvency in the interim period, expected to be for six months to one year.

The Insolvency Act seeks to, inter alia, encapsulate all provisions relating to the administration of insolvency for both individuals and corporate entities into a single piece of legislation. Significantly, the Act focuses on the rehabilitation of the debtor, where possible, while simultaneously seeking to address the interests of other affected stakeholders.

9. Reports

(i) Update on the National College for Educational Leadership (NCEL)

Cabinet noted a report in connection with the National College for Educational Leadership (NCEL), which was established in 2011 to set and maintain standards for school leadership.

The Report provided information on:

- (i) findings of a study conducted in 2013, which identified leadership as a significant variable in relation to the constitution of effective schools;
- (ii) an assessment of Jamaican schools which indicated that 57% of 804 schools received satisfactory ratings in leadership and management;
- (iii) continuing actions of the Ministry of Education to improve the quality and effectiveness of leadership in the country's schools;
- (iv) achievements of the NCEL since 2013;
- (v) programmes and activities scheduled for implementation in April 2015; and
- (vi) financial considerations for the 2014/2015 and the 2015/2016 financial years.

(ii) Update by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing on the National Land Titling Programme

Cabinet noted a report on the progress made since the establishment of a National Committee to assess the land titling situation in the country and the recommendations for improvement of the processes involved.

The report advised of the main issues identified by the Committee as affecting the distribution of titles, consultations undertaken in that regard, the resulting recommendations for improving the process for distribution of titles, and activities being carried out under a Plan of Action developed by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing.

(iii) Report on the 14th Meeting of the PetroCaribe Council Held on 20 November 2014 in Caracas, Venezuela

Cabinet noted a report on the 14th Meeting of the PetroCaribe Council held in Caracas, Venezuela on 20 November 2014.

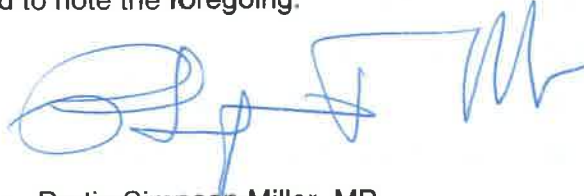
The report provided information on the deliberations at the Meeting, which focussed on three broad themes, namely (i) a review of the achievements of PetroCaribe since 2005, (ii) the future of PetroCaribe, and (iii) the progress on the implementation of technical initiatives. The report also highlighted Venezuela's commitment to the continuation of the PetroCaribe initiative, which commitment had been conveyed in unequivocal terms at the Meeting.

(iv) Ministerial Participation in the Association of Caribbean States' XXIII Special Committee for Transport in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago on 1 October 2014

Cabinet noted a report on the Association of Caribbean States' XXIII Special Committee for Transport Meeting held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on 1 October 2014.

The report provided information on the participation by the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing at the Meeting; and the deliberations in relation to the port and maritime strategy for the Greater Caribbean, the electronic maritime freight exchange (BECCA), and the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC).

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
20 January 2015