

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 19 JANUARY 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 January 2015:

1. Contract;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointment;
5. Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation Between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the People's Republic of China;
6. The US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report and Response of Jamaica; and
7. Report on the 20th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 20) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contract

Purchase of Rice for the School Feeding Programme

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract to Palm Rose Commodity Limited in the sum of \$44.4 million for the purchase of 15,000 bags of long grain rice to be used in the School Feeding Programme for the January 2015 School Term.

Under the new School Feeding Programme, most food items are procured by individual schools and paid for from the Nutritional Support Payment; however rice is purchased centrally and distributed to schools.

2. Legislation

The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Act, 2015" to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill provides for, among other things: modification of penalties for the possession of ganja in specified small quantities; the smoking of ganja in specified circumstances; and a scheme of licences, permits and other authorisation for medical, therapeutic and scientific purposes.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) All-Island Cane Farmers' Association for the year ended 30 September 2012;
- (ii) Companies Office of Jamaica for the year ended 31 March 2013; and
- (iii) Sugar Industry Authority for the year ended 31 October 2012.

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

4. Board Appointment

Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Mr. Roderick Heaven to the Board of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission, with effect from 19 January 2015 to 27 March 2015.

5. Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation Between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the People's Republic of China

Cabinet gave approval for the signing of an Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the People's Republic of China.

The Agreement is intended to further enhance the development of friendly relations and economic and technical cooperation between Jamaica and China. It will involve projects to be mutually agreed, details of which shall be the subject of supplementary agreements.

6. The US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report and Response of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the following:

- (i) adoption by Jamaica of a National Rapporteur for Trafficking In Persons (TIP) as an additional administrative function to the Office of the Children's Advocate;
- (ii) submission of an updated version of the response to the TIP Questionnaire, to the US Department of State, to reflect the most recent data; and
- (iii) submission of the final version of the Government of Jamaica TIP Country Report prior to the deadline.

The Report made proposals in relation to initiatives to improve Jamaica's ranking on the Tier 2 Watch List. One such initiative was the emplacement of a National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Persons.

The mandate of the National Rapporteur for TIP will be to investigate the scope of trafficking in Jamaica; monitor and report on Government actions and policies for the prevention of trafficking, protection of victims and prosecution of offenders; receive and enquire into complaints of trafficking; and make recommendations for policy changes.

7. Report on the 20th Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 20) to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Cabinet noted a report on the outcomes of the 20th Conference of Parties (COP 20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 10th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 10) held in Lima, Peru from 1 to 12 December 2014.

Jamaica is a party to the UNFCCC, the main multilateral environmental agreement on climate change, and the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention which seeks to strengthen the global response to climate change.

The report provided information on, *inter alia*, Jamaica's contribution to the Sessions, and the key decisions, including the adoption of the "Lima Call for Climate Action".

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
12 February 2015