

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 23 JANUARY 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 23 January 2015:

1. Legislation;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Legislation

Criminal Justice (Administration) Act, 2015

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled “The Criminal Justice (Administration) Act, 2015” to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to make provision for sentence reduction on guilty pleas, and for the review by the Court of Appeal, in limited circumstances, where a prescribed mandatory minimum penalty is imposed by the Court on conviction of a defendant for an offence.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) All-Island Cane Farmers’ Association for the year ended 30 September 2013;
- (ii) Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Commission for the financial year 2010/2011;
- (iii) Clarendon Alumina Production Limited for the financial year 2012/2013; and
- (iv) Spectrum Management Authority Limited for the financial year 2013/2014.

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

3. Board Appointments

(i) Anti-Doping Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Anti-Doping Appeal Tribunal for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 23 January 2015 to 22 January 2018:

- 1) Honourable Mr. Justice Howard Cooke – Chairman;
- 2) Honourable Mr. Justice Algernon Smith – Deputy Chairman;
- 3) Mrs. Lisa Palmer Hamilton;
- 4) Dr. Charlesworth Roberts;
- 5) Dr. Neville Graham;
- 6) Ms. Edith Allen; and
- 7) Mr. Marvin Anderson.

(ii) Independent Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Independent Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel for a period of three years with effect from 23 January 2015 to 22 January 2018, subject to their eligibility for appointment:

- 1) Professor the Honourable Kent Pantry, OJ, CD – Chairman;
- 2) Mr. Jeremy Taylor – Vice Chairman;
- 3) Mrs. Valerie Neita-Robertson – Vice Chairman;
- 4) Professor Ivor Crandon;
- 5) Professor Archibald McDonald;
- 6) Dr. Japheth Ford;
- 7) Mr. Lynsworth Headley;
- 8) Dr. Patrick Robinson; and
- 9) Mr. Maurice Foster.

4. Reports

(i) The High School Diploma Equivalency Programme (HSDEP)

Cabinet noted a report on the implementation of the High School Diploma Equivalency Programme (HSDEP) under the direction of the Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL).

The HSDEP provides Jamaicans, aged 17 years and older, with the opportunity to attain secondary level qualifications and certification. The Programme is expected to improve the outcomes for the adult learner by forming the foundation for the acquisition of skills.

The report provided enrolment data and details of the programme, including its international recognition. It also informed of the course content, the initiatives undertaken, recruitment activities underway, challenges encountered, fee structures and financial considerations.

(ii) Parent Places in School

Cabinet noted a progress report on the establishment of the Parent Places initiative in schools. The initiative serves as a focal point for information on various aspects of parenting and support services; and aims to forge greater collaboration between home and school and assist parents to develop proper parenting skills.

The report provided information on the objectives of the establishment of Parent Places; the management arrangements and the financial considerations; the activities undertaken; plans for the establishment of additional Parent Places and the proposed parenting programmes for 2015/2016.

(iii) Informal Drug Policy Dialogue Focussing on the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS), in Santa Maria Colombia, 11-13 December 2014

Cabinet noted a report on the Informal Drug Policy Dialogue that was held in Santa Maria, Colombia over the period 11 to 13 December 2014. The forum focussed on the 2016 United Nations General Assembly Special Session.

The report highlighted the objectives of the forum, as well as the deliberations with respect to (a) UN drug policy and the related international agreements and conventions; (b) the human rights dimension with respect to the drug policy; (c) reform of such international agreements and treaties; and (d) important upcoming meetings, notably, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) meeting.

The next Informal Dialogue is scheduled for February 2015 in Uruguay; and the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice is scheduled for Qatar in April 2015.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
12 February 2015