

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 4 MAY 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 May 2015:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Appointments;
4. Amendment of the Visa Waiver Requirements for Nationals of European Countries Who Travel to Jamaica for Tourism Purposes for Periods of Thirty Days or Less;
5. Amendment of the Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for Their Respective Nationals;
6. Jamaica's Accession to the Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal;
7. Request by the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences to Host a Technical Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Research Coalitions: Enhanced Networking in Latin America and the Caribbean Region;
8. The Co-Hosting of the 10th Electoral Affairs Symposium in Jamaica;
9. Support for Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva as Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation;
10. Visit to Jamaica of the United States Navy Ship (USNS) Comfort, 4-14 May 2015;
11. Visit to Jamaica of the Ophthalmological Medical Team of the People's Republic of China (Bright Journey), 18-29 May 2015; and
12. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) ESRI Enterprise Licence Agreement for the Government of Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the establishment of a Geographic Information System (GIS) Enterprise Licence Agreement for the Government of Jamaica, with the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), in the amount of US\$2,375,000.00 payable over a period of four years.

After a review of the map and spatial software being used by the Government of Jamaica and those available in the market by a group of local and international experts, a decision was taken to utilise the ESRI software as the software of choice for all Government Agencies. All maps and spatial data created since 1992 have utilised GIS software and some entities have built their base systems using GIS, more, specifically the ESRI platform.

(ii) Procurement and Installation of a Digital Radiographic Fluoroscopic X-Ray System

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$81,323,840.00 to Toyota Jamaica Limited for the procurement of ten (10) ambulances for the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health provides ambulance services for pre-hospital emergency medical care and in-hospital patient transfers for the public health sector.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) National Irrigation Commission for the year ended 31 March 2014; and
- (ii) Registrar General's Department for the year ended 31 March 2010.

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

3. Appointments

(i) Clarendon Alumina Production Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the reappointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 4 May 2015 to 3 May 2017:

- 1) Dr. the Honourable Vincent Lawrence, OJ, CD – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Mr. Joseph Cox;
- 3) Ms. Delrose Campbell;
- 4) Mr. Winston Hepburn;
- 5) Mr. Winston Hayden;
- 6) Mr. Junior Rose;
- 7) Mr. Roderick Gordon;
- 8) Mr. Moses Green; and
- 9) Ms. Michelle Forbes.

(ii) Jamaica Cultural Development Commission

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Commission for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 4 May 2015 to 3 May 2018:

- 1) Mr. Aston Cooke – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Mr. Christopher Samuda – **Deputy Chairperson**;
- 3) Mr. Junior Rose;
- 4) Ms. Audrey Johnson;
- 5) Ms. Cindy Breakspeare;
- 6) Dr. Rose Davies;
- 7) Mr. Vaughn 'Bunny' Goodison;
- 8) Rev. Astor Carlyle;
- 9) Mr. Weston Haughton;
- 10) Ms. Thelma Johill;
- 11) Ms. Pamela Redwood;
- 12) Mr. Donovan Jermaine;
- 13) Ms. Delrose Campbell;
- 14) Mr. Kevin Jones; and
- 15) Dr. Brian Heap.

(iii) Registration Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Tribunal for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 4 May 2015 to 3 May 2017:

- 1) Mr. Bertram Anderson – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Ms. Karen Gaye Foote; and
- 3) Mr. Roy Chapman.

(iv) Southern Regional Health Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of Ms. Channa Ebanks to the Board of Management of the Southern Regional Health Authority, with effect from 4 May 2015 to 15 March 2018 when the tenure of the existing Board would expire.

4. Amendment of the Visa Waiver Requirements for Nationals of European Countries Who Travel to Jamaica for Tourism Purposes for Periods of Thirty Days or Less

Cabinet approved the removal of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovenia from the list of countries granted conditional visa waiver for travelling to Jamaica for tourism purposes for periods of 30 days or less on the condition they were in possession of a valid visa from either the United States of America (USA), or Canada or the United Kingdom (UK)/Schengen Region. Cabinet noted that the health requirement of proof of vaccination against Measles, Rubella and Polio before entry is granted into Jamaica, would be retained.

Nationals of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovenia are exempt from having visas from USA, Canada, and the UK/Schengen.

5. Amendment of the Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on the Exemption of Visa Requirements for their Respective Nationals

Cabinet gave approval for the amendment of the Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Federative Republic of Brazil on the exemption of visa requirements for their respective nationals.

The Government of Brazil requested an amendment to the Agreement to clarify the categories of persons eligible for visa-free travel to ensure that only persons travelling for the purpose of tourism would benefit.

6. Jamaica's Accession to the Amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's accession to the amendment to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was adopted on 22 March 1989 by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in Basel, Switzerland. The Convention entered into force in 1992 and Jamaica became a party on 23 January 2003. The overarching objective of the Basel Convention is to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

The amendment to the Convention, also known as the 'Ban Amendment', provides for the prohibition by each Party included in the proposed new Annex VII (Parties and other States which are members of the OECD, EC, Liechtenstein) of all transboundary movements to States not included in Annex VII, of hazardous wastes covered by the Convention that are intended for final disposal, and of all transboundary movements to States not included in Annex VII of hazardous wastes covered by paragraph 1 (a) of Article 1 of the Convention that are destined for reuse, recycling or recovery operations.

7. Request by the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences to Host a Technical Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency on Research Coalitions: Enhanced Networking in Latin America and the Caribbean Region

Cabinet gave approval for the Government of Jamaica to host the Technical Meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Research Coalitions: Enhanced Networking in Latin America and the Caribbean Region, during the period 7 to 10 July 2015, as requested by the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS).

Jamaica became a full member of the IAEA in 1965, and has since collaborated with it on numerous development projects. Over the past 30 years, ICENS has partnered with IAEA by hosting numerous conferences, workshops, meetings and research fellows as well as in the development of both national and regional programmes. Additionally, ICENS has been instrumental in the establishment of the Caribbean Research Reactor Coalition among Jamaica, Mexico and Colombia.

8. The Co-Hosting of the 10th Electoral Affairs Symposium in Jamaica

Cabinet approved the request by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica to co-host the 10th Electoral Affairs Symposium in Montego Bay, Jamaica during the period 27 to 29 May 2015. The Cabinet noted that the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS) was the planner and primary host of the 10th Electoral Affairs Symposium.

The Symposium seeks to bring together Election Commissioners, policy makers, Non-Governmental Organisations, technology providers and other key stakeholders, with the aim of providing a platform to share best practice, build strong partnerships and develop further strategies and policies to deliver free and fair election to citizens.

The ICPS, a 'not for profit' company registered in England and Wales, is an electoral think-tank, which focuses on best practices, consultancy, training and accreditation. Its membership is exclusive to electoral professionals and national electoral bodies on all continents. ICPS supports stakeholders in the electoral process worldwide, through its provision of services in the areas of research, high level networks, consultancy and training.

9. Support for Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva as Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation

Cabinet approved the recommendation by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to support the re-election of Dr. Jose Graziano Da Silva as Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) for a four-year tenure.

Dr. Graziano Da Silva is the current Director General of the FAO and was elected to the post on 26 June 2011. Prior to being Director General of the FAO, he served as FAO's Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean during the period 2006-2011. Dr. Graziano Da Silva actively supported the "Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative" which made the region the first in the world to commit to the total eradication of hunger by 2025. In his current capacity as Director General of FAO, Dr. Graziano Da Silva has sharpened the Organisation's strategic focus to transform the vision of a hunger-free and sustainable world a reality.

10. Visit to Jamaica of the United States Navy Ship (USNS) Comfort, 4-14 May 2015

Cabinet noted the proposed visit to Jamaica of the United States Navy Ship (USNS) Comfort from 4 to 14 May 2015, as part of a five-month multi-country humanitarian assistance mission in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The objectives of the visit are to provide medical assistance, engage in knowledge-exchange activities between US and local professionals, carry out engineering activities to upgrade schools, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, and conduct agricultural skills training for at-risk juveniles. Cabinet also noted the last visit of the USNS Comfort to Jamaica was in 2011.

11. Visit to Jamaica of the Ophthalmological Medical Team of the People's Republic of China (Bright Journey), 18-29 May 2015

Cabinet gave approval for the visit to Jamaica by the Bright Journey Ophthalmological Medical Mission from the People's Republic of China, for the initial period 18 to 29 May 2015.

The objectives of the visit are to conduct free cataract surgical operations and clinical activities for the benefit of Jamaicans, carry out academic exchanges with Jamaica's health care professionals, and donate medical equipment and supplies to the Ophthalmology Department of the Kingston Public Hospital.

12. Reports

(i) Reform of the Public Sector Healthcare System

Cabinet noted a report on recent developments and decisions with respect to the public sector healthcare system, including (a) improvements in the delivery of healthcare, (b) increased budgetary provisions for 2015/2016, and (c) the appointment of a task force chaired by the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), with representatives of the medical fraternity and the Ministry of Health, to make recommendations for the improvement of the country's healthcare system.

The report advised of the inefficiencies in the current healthcare arrangements, and noted that the increased financial resources had not yet filtered through the entire system. The report informed that the Regional Health Authorities would undertake comprehensive audits of hospitals and health centres to determine the availability of medical supplies and identify the challenges being faced in ensuring an adequate supply-chain management system. The report highlighted that the audits would inform the provision of additional resources, as afforded by the increased budgetary allocation, leading to greater efficiencies.

The report also provided information on infrastructure improvement, conditions of employment of public sector health professionals, projections for the completion and operationalisation of cancer care centres by April/May 2016 with state-of-the-art equipment, and the supply of medical equipment to healthcare facilities.

(ii) Review of the Child Care and Protection Act

Cabinet noted a report advising of developments with respect to the proposed amendments to the Child Care and Protection Act being pursued by the Ministry of Youth and Culture.

The report advised of the enactment of the legislation in 2004 in response to issues concerning the protection of child rights and safety in Jamaica, as well as the limitations of the Act and related Regulations that had since been identified, particularly regarding the treatment of children who were in conflict with the law and the responsibility of the Child Development Agency (CDA) for children in detention/remand centres. The report further advised that the Ministry of Youth and Culture had commissioned a review of the Act and the related Regulations, which sought to address (a) the shortfall of the legislation in achieving the objectives as envisaged in 2004, and (b) the evolved and continually evolving agenda of child care and protection in Jamaica.

The report outlined the recommended areas for amendment, the consultations undertaken, and the establishment of a Joint Select Committee of Parliament to review the Sexual Offences Act in tandem with the Child Care and Protection Act, the Domestic Violence Act, and the Offences Against the Person Act, to focus on the protection of the vulnerable from violence and abuse.

(iii) VII Summit of the Americas: Panama City, Panama, 10-11 April 2015

Cabinet noted a report on the VII Summit of the Americas held in Panama City, Panama, from 10 to 11 April 2015.

The report provided information on the Summit and associated meetings, the countries represented, and the discussions around the theme of the Summit "Prosperity with Equity: the Challenge of Cooperation in the America", as well as on Cuba and Venezuela. The report informed that the Eighth Summit will be held in 2018.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
20 May 2015