

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 18 MAY 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 18 May 2015:

1. Contracts;
2. Land Matters;
3. Annual Report;
4. Appointments;
5. Special Benefit Order: Hampden Housing Development, Phase II, Trelawny;
6. Renaming of the Balaclava High School as the “Roger Clarke High School”; and
7. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Procurement and Distribution of Textbooks under the Primary Textbook Scheme for 2015/2016

Cabinet approved the award of contracts for the supply and distribution of Primary Textbooks as follows:

- (a) Carlong Publishers Limited in the amounts of US\$2,413,720.00 and £274,770.00; and
- (b) Sangster’s Book Stores in the amount of US\$1,968,750.00.

In 2010, the Media Services Unit of the Ministry of Education conducted a review of books to be used in Primary and All-Age Schools in the areas of Integrated Studies, Science, Social Studies and Mathematics. The review sought to determine the extent to which the textbooks focused on and were aligned with the Revised Primary Curriculum; and to select the best quality textbooks to be procured for use in all primary schools. The textbooks that are being procured were considered the most appropriate for the Curriculum.

(ii) Ethernet Wide Area Network Connection

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$870,684.00, inclusive of a one-time charge of US\$29,580.00, to Cable and Wireless Jamaica Limited (LIME), to provide Ethernet Wide-Area Network Connection (Metro-Net) for all Tax Administration Jamaica locations and eGov Jamaica for a period of three (3) years.

Following a decision to embark on tax reform aimed primarily at addressing the lack of integration among the tax departments under the Ministry of Finance and Planning, an assessment was conducted to determine the most reliable means of improving connectivity between the relevant bodies vis-à-vis the transmission of data. The Ethernet Wide-Area Network Connection was deemed the most suitable.

(iii) Rehabilitation of Roads in the St. Thomas, Worthy Park and Monymusk Sugar Dependent Areas

Cabinet approved the award of contracts for the rehabilitation of roads in the St. Thomas, Worthy Park and Monymusk Sugar Dependent Areas (SDAs), under the National Cane Roads Rehabilitation Project Phase 2 of the Sugar Transformation Programme, as follows:

- (a) Build-Rite Construction Company Limited (Package 4: St. Thomas) in the amount of \$73,284,779.10;
- (b) Black Brothers Incorporated Limited (Package 5: St. Catherine and Clarendon) in the amount of \$93,332,995.00; and
- (c) Build-Rite Construction Company Limited (Package 6: Clarendon) in the amount of \$70,061,472.20.

The Sugar Transformation Programme aims to develop a sustainable, private sector-led sugar cane industry by 2015, strengthen the economic diversification, social resilience and environmental sustainability of sugar dependent areas, and maintain progress towards macro-economic goals. Undertakings of the Sugar Transformation Programme include: the Sugar Estate Barracks Relocation Project which seeks to resettle 876 residents of Sugar Barracks in 397 units at 7 location sites; and the Social, Economic and Infrastructure Projects for Sugar Dependent Communities to support some 111 projects, mainly schools, sporting facilities and clinics in SDAs. Under the National Cane Roads Rehabilitation Project, approximately 200 kilometres of road will be repaired in 3 phases. The objective of the project is to provide improved access for the “fields to factories” transportation of sugar cane, while also addressing the commute for the sugar workers and the surrounding communities.

2. Land Matters

(i) Coffee Lane, Mount Salem, St. James

Cabinet gave approval for the compulsory acquisition of land known as Coffee Lane, Mount Salem, St. James under the Land Acquisition Act, in order to enable the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing to provide security of tenure to the occupants.

The property is occupied by approximately 22 families, most of whom have been in occupation in excess of 30 years and have erected both concrete and wooden houses.

(ii) Compensation to Mrs. Hermeta Easington for the Acquisition of Her Premises as a Command Post at Lot 396, Gravel Heights, St. Catherine North Division

Cabinet gave approval for Mrs. Hermeta Easington to be compensated for the acquisition by the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) of her premises at Lot 396, Gravel Heights, St. Catherine where a Police Command Post was erected.

During an upsurge of violence between 2008 and 2010, Mrs. Easington was forcibly removed from her home in the Gravel Heights community by members of a reputed gang. The premises is positioned on a hill that affords a panoramic view of Gravel Heights and neighbouring communities, such as Tredegar Park. Consequently, the property was used by members of the gang to monitor the movements of the Security Forces and residents.

Following an intervention by the police, the property was rid of the criminal elements and is now being used as a Police Command Post.

3. Annual Report

Cabinet considered the Annual Report of the National Youth Service for the year ended 31 March 2009.

This Report will be tabled in Parliament at a later date.

4. Appointments

(i) Planning Institute of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Julie Meeks-Gardner to the Board of Directors for the Planning Institute of Jamaica, with effect from 27 April 2015 to 26 April 2018, when the tenure of the existing Board would expire.

(ii) Negril/Green Island Area Local Planning Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 18 May 2015 to 17 May 2017:

- 1) Mr. Cliff Reynolds – **Chairman**;
- 2) Miss Jean Brown;
- 3) Mr. Kenric Davis;
- 4) Mr. Leonard Francis;
- 5) Mr. Wayne Williams;
- 6) Miss Tashakaye Perue;
- 7) Miss Pollyana Brown;
- 8) Mr. Rollin Alveranga;
- 9) Representative, Ministry of Health;
- 10) Representative, Jamaica Hotel and Tourist Association;
- 11) Representative, Jamaica Constabulary Force;
- 12) Representative, Urban Development Corporation;
- 13) Secretary/Manager/Representative, Westmoreland Parish Council; and
- 14) Secretary/Manager/Representative, Hanover Parish Council.

(iii) Rural Water Supply Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 18 May 2015 to 17 May 2018:

- 1) Mr. John Paul White – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Hugh Graham;
- 3) Reverend Omar Oliphant;
- 4) Mr. Basil Hernandez;
- 5) Mr. Norman Scott;
- 6) Ms. Keisha Tyrell;
- 7) Mrs. Debbie-Ann Kerr-Scott;
- 8) Mr. Audley Thompson; and

9) Mr. Joseph Taffe.

(iv) Central Wastewater Treatment Company Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 29 May 2015 to 28 May 2018:

- 1) Mr. Prakash Vaswani – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Keith Goodison;
- 3) Mrs. Marjorie Segree;
- 4) Mr. Kevin Williams;
- 5) Mr. Mark Barnett;
- 6) Mrs. Patricia Snow-Young; and
- 7) Mr. Moshe Saldinger.

(v) Land Administration and Management Programme Fund

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 18 May 2015 to 17 May 2018:

- 1) Mrs. Elise Wright-Goffe – **Chairperson**;
 - 2) Ms. Gynelle Findlay;
 - 3) Mr. Robert Wright;
 - 4) Reverend Courtney Golding;
 - 5) Mr. Owen Allen;
 - 6) Ms. Constance Trowers;
- Ex Officio Members**
- 7) Dr. Alwin Hales;
 - 8) Ms. Rochelle Dacres; and
 - 9) Miss Sharon Brown.

(vi) Water Resources Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 18 May 2015 to 17 May 2018:

- 1) Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee, Jr. – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Basil Fernandez;
- 3) Mr. Winston Boothe;
- 4) Mrs. Rose Bennett Cooper;
- 5) Mr. Scean Barnswell;
- 6) Dr. Conrad Douglas;
- 7) Reverend Franklin Jackson;
- 8) Professor Michael Taylor; and
- 9) Mrs. Cheyenne McClarty.

5. Special Benefit Order: Hampden Housing Development, Phase II, Trelawny

Cabinet gave approval for the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order, effective 1 June 2015, to facilitate the allocation of seventeen (17) housing solutions at the Hampden Housing Development, Phase II, Trelawny, to “young adults” who were contributors to the National Housing Trust (NHT). These young adults should be between the age of 25 to 40 years, satisfy

the eligibility requirements for a Non-homeowner's Loan, contribute to the NHT for at least 5 years, process their loan directly through the NHT, and are able, whether solely or in combination with a co-applicant, to afford the selling price of the solution.

The Sugar Workers Housing Programme was introduced in 2003 as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Government of Jamaica, the NHT and Trade Unions representing Sugar Workers. Phase I of the housing development at Hampden comprised of 288 serviced lots. 138 lots were made available to NHT contributors and the other 150 were allocated to workers of the Hampden Sugar Estate. Due to the overwhelming response to Phase I and the availability of land, the NHT decided to undertake a second phase. A total of 78 First Step Homes will be constructed and 40 serviced lots will be made available.

6. Renaming of the Balaclava High School as the "Roger Clarke High School"

Cabinet gave approval for the Balaclava High School in St Elizabeth to be renamed the "Roger Clarke High School", with effect from 1 September 2015. The renaming is based on recommendations from citizens of the parish of St. Elizabeth for the school to be so renamed, in honour of Honourable Roger Clarke, CD, a former Member of Parliament. The Ministry of Education is in support of the proposal and consultations were held on the matter.

7. Reports

(i) The Implementation of the Event Rating System for the Entertainment Industry

Cabinet noted a report on the implementation of the Event Rating System for the entertainment industry.

The report advised that the System provides consumers of entertainment events with a rating that acts as a guide to the content that would be available and the audience to which the event would be targeted. This rating system was established by examining references, actions, promotion and marketing of sex, violence, nudity, strong language, use of alcohol and drugs at events. The report informed that implementation of the System was predicated on proposed changes to the Places of Amusement Regulations that would allow for the placement of the rating option on the Places of Amusement License forms.

The report also advised that the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment conducted a pilot of the Rating System for those events receiving Event Extensions during the period 1-31 December 2014.

(ii) Travel by a Government of Jamaica Delegation to Washington DC

Cabinet noted a report on a visit to Washington, DC by a Government of Jamaica (GOJ) delegation, headed by the Minister of Finance and Planning, for meetings with multilateral financial institutions, development agencies, and United States (US) government departments, during the period 13 to 19 April 2015.

The report provided summary information on the institutions visited, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank (IBRD), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); as well as discussions with, and the response from the institutions at the meetings regarding the priority of growth for the GOJ.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
15 June 2015