

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 27 JULY 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 27 July 2015:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Report on the Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, Bridgetown, Barbados 2-4 July 2015; and
5. World Heritage Inscription of the Blue and John Crow Mountains.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Renewal of Microsoft Licences by National Housing Trust

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$832,825.47 (approximately J\$97,376,369.15), exclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Microsoft Corporation for the renewal of Microsoft Licences under the Government of Jamaica's Master Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft Corporation, USA for the three (3) year period 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2018.

The National Housing Trust (NHT), over the past three (3) years, has operated a licence for its Microsoft products under an Open-Value Agreement. The licences are now being renewed under the Government of Jamaica Master Enterprise Agreement with Microsoft Corporation, USA which is executed by the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining. The renewal of the licences is necessary as the NHT utilises the Microsoft Office suite to undertake and facilitate its daily operations and to communicate with its various stakeholders. Additionally, the Windows operating system is used on all desktops and portable computers of the NHT.

(ii) Supply of Desktops Workstations and Laptop Computers at Tax Administration Jamaica, Jamaica Customs Agency, the Accountant General's Department and the Ministry of Finance and Planning

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,082,239.78, excluding General Consumption Tax, to Management Control Systems Limited for the supply of desktop workstations and laptop computers to Tax Administration Jamaica, Jamaica Customs Agency, the Accountant General's Department and the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

The desktop workstations and laptop computers are being procured under the Fiscal Administration Modernisation Program (FAMP) and are expected to result in improved operational efficiency and customer service. FAMP was established to support the

Government of Jamaica achieving a sustainable fiscal position through the strengthening of institutional capacity to drive improvements in the areas of customs and inland tax collections and to manage debt and Government payments operations. The goods being procured will support the implementation of the new tax and customs operations systems and also assist in the transition to a paperless process.

(iii) Rehabilitation of the Mocho to Arcadia Roadway, St. James

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$83,976,120.00 to S&G Road Surfacing Materials Limited, for the rehabilitation of the Mocho to Arcadia roadway in the parish of St. James.

The Mocho to Arcadia roadway is a major link between the Montego Bay resort area and Accompong in St. Elizabeth. The roadway is approximately 7.4 kilometres in length and is in need of urgent repairs, as there are cracks and breakaways along the road which pose a danger to motorists and pedestrians travelling to and from surrounding townships, farming and commercial areas.

(iv) Technical Assistance for the Implementation of Medium Term Results-Based Budgeting in Jamaica

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$388,970.69 to Deloitte LLC, to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Finance and Planning for the implementation of Medium Term Results-Based Budgeting.

Medium Term Results-Based Budgeting (MTRBB) is being implemented to address weaknesses in Jamaica's Public Financial Management system. It is a management and planning tool which seeks to align resource allocations to specific, measureable results within a medium term macroeconomic planning framework. The consultants, Deloitte LLC will assist in delivering key early steps in the implementation of a medium term results-based approach to budgeting in the public sector over a period of five and a half months. The consultants will be responsible for, inter alia, piloting the MTRBB in three (3) line Ministries; completing a strategic review of the Public Expenditure Division of the Ministry of Finance and Planning; and recommending the functional realignment necessary to support the implementation of the MTRBB.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Commission of Strata Corporation for the financial year 2012/2013;
- (ii) Fair Trading Commission for the financial years 2009/2010 and 2010/2011;
- (iii) Forestry Department for the financial year 2010/2011;
- (iv) National Water Commission for the financial years 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013;
- (v) Port Authority of Jamaica for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (vi) Real Estate Board for the financial year 2012/2013; and
- (vii) Universal Service Fund for the financial year 2013/2014.

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

3. Board Appointments

(i) Milk River Hotel and Spa

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors of the Milk River Hotel and Spa for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 27 July 2015 to 26 July 2017:

- 1) Dr. Guyan Arscott – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Thelma Johill – Deputy Chair;
- 3) Ms. Heather Christian;
- 4) Mr. Hugh Meredith;
- 5) Mrs. Scarlett Gillings; and
- 6) Mr. Michael Nunez.

(ii) Road Traffic Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Road Traffic Appeal Tribunal for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 27 July 2015 to 26 July 2017:

- 1) Reverend Bobby Wilmot – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Joan Fletcher; and
- 3) Lieutenant Commander John McFarlane.

(iii) Supervisory Committee of the Bank of Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Supervisory Committee of the Bank of Jamaica for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 29 July 2015 to 28 July 2018:

- 1) Professor David Tennant; and
- 2) Miss Shirley Ann Eaton.

4. Report on the Thirty-Sixth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, Bridgetown, Barbados 2-4 July 2015

Cabinet noted a report on the outcome of the 36<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held in Bridgetown, Barbados over the period 2 to 4 July 2015.

The report advised of the revision of the draft Decisions on the proposed budget and financing of the Commissions on Reparations and Marijuana. Among the other issues that were discussed were: sustainable development; the role of Caribbean universities in the region's development; promotion of sustainable energy; revision of emoluments and proposed pension rules for the judges of the Caribbean Court of Justice; black-listing of CARICOM Tax Jurisdictions by the European Union; the situation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic; CARICOM/Canada relations; and the Guyana-Venezuela border dispute. Summary information was also provided on Jamaica's bilateral meetings with Guyana, Italy and Georgia.

5. World Heritage Inscription of the Blue and John Crow Mountains

Cabinet noted information provided on the inscription of the Blue and John Crown Mountains as a World Heritage Site.

The submission for the inscription of the Blue and John Crown Mountains as a world heritage site, for both cultural and natural value, was made in January 2014. The recommendation for the inscription was received in April 2015 from the International Union of the Conservation of Nature and the International Council on Monument and Sites. The Blue and John Crown Mountains represent Jamaica's first World Heritage Site and the first mixed site in the region.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Portia Simpson Miller', written over a horizontal line.

Portia Simpson Miller, MP  
Prime Minister  
3 September 2015