

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 7 SEPTEMBER 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 7 September 2015:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Land Matters;
5. Board Appointments;
6. Hosting of Meetings; and
7. The Inaugural Jamaica Film Festival.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Supply of Haematology Reagents and Analyzers

Cabinet approved the award to a contract in the amount of US\$655,842.72 to Facey Commodity Company Limited for the provision of haematology reagents and analyzers for the Western Regional Health Authority for a period of three years.

The Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) provides a range of laboratory services to the Cornwall Regional, Savanna-la-mar, Falmouth and Noel Holmes hospitals that support the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases. The supplier will be required to provide reagents, equipment and customer service support for the laboratories within the four (4) hospitals.

(ii) Follow-on Procurement of Motor Vehicle Consumables

Cabinet ratified the award of a contract in the amount J\$75,713,858.50 to De La Rue International Limited by Tax Administration Jamaica for the follow-on procurement of motor vehicle consumables and associated expenditure.

The consumables include motor vehicle licence stickers, registration certificates, titles and other items needed for the production of driver's licences. The procurement is being made to so as to allow for the requisite lead time for the production of the items and their delivery by December 2015.

(iii) Follow-on Procurement of Motor Vehicles Licence Plates

Cabinet ratified the award of a contract in the amount of J\$178,249,037.50 to Musson Jamaica Limited by Tax Administration Jamaica for the follow-on procurement of motor vehicle licence plates.

The current contract is for one year, commencing 3 January 2015 with the option to renew for another year. The contract provides for a turnaround time of within six to eight weeks of the date of receipt of purchase order for the delivery of the plates. The plates are not manufactured locally for security reasons as well as the fact that raw materials are not available locally.

(iv) Supply and Erection of Bolted Steel Water Storage Tanks (Lots 2 and 4)

Cabinet approved the award of two (2) contracts in the amounts of J\$164,476,763.00 and J\$110,101,874.00 to Florida Aquastore and Utility Construction Incorporated by the National Water Commission, for the supply and erection of bolted steel water storage tanks.

The bolted steel tanks are being procured under the National Water Commission's K-Factor programme, with the objective of improving the operational efficiency at water supply facilities throughout Jamaica. The contracts for the replacement of water storage tanks is divided into 5 Lots based on specifications of size and protective coating. These two (2) contracts to Florida Aquastore and Utility Construction Incorporated will service Lots 2 and 4. Nine (9) 100,000 gallon tanks and eight (8) 50,000 gallon tanks are being procured under the contracts.

(v) Expansion and Renovation of the Accident and Emergency Department at Linstead Hospital

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$76,428,138.00 to Chin's Construction Limited for the expansion and renovation of the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Department of the Linstead Hospital.

The A&E Department of the Linstead Hospital in the parish of St. Catherine is in need of renovation works in order to function effectively at its full capacity. It currently caters to various categories of accidents, including motor vehicular accidents and, particularly, those occurring along the Bog Walk Gorge which are frequent.

2. Legislation

The Jury (Amendment) Act, 2015

Cabinet gave approval for a Bill entitled "The Jury (Amendment) Act, 2015" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend sections of the Jury Act and the Criminal Justice (Administration) Act, in an effort to reform Jamaica's jury system.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Factories Corporation of Jamaica for the financial year 2013/2014;
- (ii) Jamaica Business Development Corporation for the financial year 2012/2013;
- (iii) Kingston Free Zone Company Limited for the financial year 2013/2014; and
- (iv) Office of Utilities Regulation for the financial year 2014/2015.

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

4. Land Matters

(i) Acquisition of Lands Part of Windsor Forest, St. Thomas

Cabinet gave approval for the compulsory acquisition of 132.8 hectares of land part of Windsor Forest, Llandewey located in St. Thomas under the Land Acquisition Act, in the amount of \$13 million to provide security of tenure for the existing small farmers on the property.

The property, which is owned by Sedalco Investment Limited, was first leased to the Commissioner of Lands in February 1975. The property was subsequently divided into 90 lots and sublet to small farmers under the Project Land Lease Programme. Beginning in 1987, there have been several attempts by the Government to purchase the property; all of which have been futile as the negotiations have failed to end in an agreement. In January 2015, it was reported that 44 of the original lessees and/or their relatives still occupy the land. The acquisition of the property is currently being pursued to provide security of the tenure of the small farmers and ensure that they are not dislocated after so many years of occupancy.

(ii) Acquisition of Parcels of Land Required for Mandela Highway Improvement Project

Cabinet gave approval for the acquisition, utilising the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, of seven parcels of land with an estimated area of take of 63,102 square metres and 20 structures in the parishes of St. Andrew and St. Catherine, between the exit ramp of the P.J. Patterson Highway and the Six Miles Bridge, which are likely to be needed for the implementation of the Mandela Highway Improvement Project under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme.

The parcels of land are required for the rehabilitation of the Mandela Highway. The Highway is the major connecting roadway between western Jamaica and the Corporate Area and is the most heavily trafficked roadway in Jamaica. The Highway can also be used as an evacuation route for the low lying areas of Portmore, Kingston and St. Andrew, should the need arise. The proposed rehabilitation works include raising the Highway and upgrading its size to six through lanes east of Highway 2000. It is anticipated that the proposed changes will reduce the incidence of flooding on the roadway and better accommodate existing and future traffic demands.

(iii) Purchase of Permanent Office by the Broadcasting Commission

Cabinet gave approval for the purchase of property located at 9 Central Avenue, Kingston 10 in the amount of \$95 million by the Broadcasting Commission to use as its permanent office.

The Broadcasting Commission has occupied its current office since 1996 and has grown significantly since. The Commission currently regulates the operations of 27 radio stations, 3 free-to-air television stations, and 47 subscriber television operators. The regulatory mandate of the Commission is being expanded to include, inter alia,

Independent Programme Providers, Internet-based broadcasting services and satellite broadcasting. As such, the current office space is inadequate to meet the needs of the staff, Commissioners and stakeholders. The Commission stands to benefit from the savings to be accrued from not paying rental fees for both office space and meeting venues.

5. Board Appointments

(i) Land Surveyors Board

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Land Surveyors Board of Jamaica:

- 1) Mr. Valentine McCook;
- 2) Mr. Noel Brown; and
- 3) Mr. Keith Levy.

(ii) Overseas Examination Commission (OEC)

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the Mr. Ottis Brown (representative of the Association of Principals and Vice-Principals) to the Overseas Examination Commission, with effect from 7 September 2015 to 31 May 2018.

Cabinet also noted the naming of the following persons by institutions in respect of which the governing legislation provides for their representation on the Commission:

- 1) Dr. Carol Archer (University of Technology, Jamaica);
- 2) Mrs. Yvonne Bignal (Northern Caribbean University);
- 3) Dr. Donna Powell-Wilson (Community Colleges); and
- 4) Mrs. Yvonne Clarke (Teachers' Colleges).

6. Hosting of Meetings

(i) 2015 Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers Conference

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host the 4th Biennial Conference of the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) to be held in Montego Bay, St. James, during the period 24 to 26 September 2015.

CAJO is mandated as a body to enhance the administration of justice in the Caribbean region by promoting the development of impartial, competent and effective judicial officers. The 3rd conference of CAJO was held in Barbados on 26-28 September 2013. The 4th Biennial Conference is to be held in Jamaica under the provisionally agreed theme "High Performance Standards for Justice Delivery".

(ii) Regional Workshop on Legislative Drafting for Drafters

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host the Regional Workshop on Legislative Drafting for Drafters in Kingston, during the period 14 to 18 September 2015.

The workshop was sponsored by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), through the Maritime Authority of Jamaica. The objectives included reviewing the legislative approaches and legal techniques adopted by states in the region; assisting the states to

incorporate international rules into domestic laws, in accordance with national constitutional rules and requirements; and assisting member states in the region in the implementation of their rights and duties as flag, port and coastal states to IMO treaty instruments. The member states of the Caribbean region requested assistance from the IMO to ensure that they have up-to-date, adequate and appropriate legislation for the implementation of their responsibilities.

7. The Inaugural Jamaica Film Festival

Cabinet noted a report on the Inaugural Jamaica Film Festival which was held in Kingston over the period 7 to 11 July 2015. The Festival was hosted by the Jamaica Promotions Corporation (JAMPRO), in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism and Entertainment, the Tourism Enhancement Fund and the Jamaica Film Producers' Association.

Jamaica is competing with other jurisdictions in the Caribbean and other regions as a location for international film production and for investments in the local film industry. The Film Festival was identified by the Jamaica Film Commission as a mechanism to stimulate improvement in the quality of work produced by the local industry, as well as to increase the number of Jamaican-directed and financed film projects. These improvements will further contribute to Jamaica's competitiveness in the film industry.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
2 October 2015

