

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 2 NOVEMBER 2015

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 2 November 2015:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Proposals to Stimulate the Housing Market;
5. World Health Organization Recommendations on Strategies and Actions to deal with the Ebola Virus Disease; and
6. Update on Audit of the Regional Health Authorities.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Rehabilitation of Mountainside to Watchwell Parish Council Road – St. Elizabeth

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of \$99,701,205.00 to D.R. Foote Construction Company Limited for the rehabilitation of the Mountainside to Watchwell Parish Council road, located in the parish of St. Elizabeth.

The Mountainside to Watchwell Parish Council road is being rehabilitated by the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing through the National Works Agency. The section of the road is approximately six (6) kilometres in length and connects the central part of St. Elizabeth with the southern part. The funding for the rehabilitation works comes from a grant from the Tourism Enhancement Fund.

(ii) Kingston Container Terminal

Cabinet approved four (4) contracts in relation to the Kingston Container Terminal (KCT).

The Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) signed a Concession Agreement with Terminal Link Consortium (TL) in April 2015 for a concession to finance, expand, operate, maintain and transfer the KCT. Based on the terms of the Agreement, the PAJ is responsible, inter alia, for maintaining the operational performance standards of the KCT until it is handed over to TL.

1) Repairs to Ship-to-Shore Gantry Cranes

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,292,333.00 to Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industries Company Limited for repairs to four ship-to-shore gantry cranes.

The parts of the cranes to be repaired are the trolley rails, the wheel assemblies, the side rollers and the brake discs. The repairs are being carried out in order to maintain the operational effectiveness of the cranes.

The PAJ will be responsible for the initial payment of US\$387,699.90 (30%) under the contract, whilst TL will be responsible for covering the balance of US\$904,633.10 (70%), which will become due after the handover.

2) Bromma STS45 Spreaders

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$587,223.00 to Cargotec CHS Pte Limited Bromma for the supply and commissioning of three Bromma STS45 Spreaders.

The spreaders will replace the five spreaders which were purchased in 2000 and have since exceeded their useful life of ten (10) years.

The cost of this procurement will be borne by the Concessionaire.

3) Wireless Data Network

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,898,354.40 to Cyber-X Consultants Limited for the supply and installation of a wireless data network.

Wired and wireless networks are essential to the general functioning and efficiency of the KCT as it is highly automated and dependent on certain applications and networks. Upgrading and expanding the network will provide an industry-standard, comprehensive and secure wireless network through the terminal and will enhance operational efficiency.

The cost of this procurement will be borne by the Concessionaire.

4) Ship-to-Shore Crane Control Systems

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$512,000.00 to TMEIC Corporation for the supply and commissioning of eight ship-to-shore crane control systems.

The components and software of the existing crane control systems at the KCT are obsolete, and some are no longer supported or available. The upgrade will involve replacing the existing controllers with the latest software and diagnostic system. An efficient crane control system is necessary as the KCT specialises in the handling and transshipment containers.

The cost of this procurement will be borne by the Concessionaire.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Devon House Development Company Limited for the financial year 2013/2014;
- (ii) Financial Services Commission for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (iii) Jamaica Mortgage Bank for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (iv) Jamaica Vacations Limited for the financial year 2013/2014;
- (v) National Housing Trust for the financial year 2014/2015; and
- (vi) Spectrum Management Authority for the financial year 2014/2015.

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

3. Board Appointments

(i) Firearm Licensing Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Honourable Mr. Justice Wesley James to the Review Board of the Firearm Licensing Authority with effect from 1 November 2015 to 27 October 2016, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 2 November 2015 to 1 November 2018:

- 1) Dr. Conrad Douglas – **Chairman**;
- 2) Dr. Willard Pinnock;
- 3) Dr. Freddie Clark;
- 4) Dr. Colin Miller;
- 5) Dr. Leary Myers;
- 6) Director General, Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority (ex-officio); and
- 7) Chief Medical Officer (ex-officio).

(iii) Vocational Training Development Institute

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Management of the Vocational Training Development Institute for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 2 November 2015 to 1 November 2018:

- 1) Mr. Connel Steer – **Chairman**;
- 2) Dr. Paul Jennings;
- 3) Mr. Danny Roberts;
- 4) Mr. Cedric McCulloch;
- 5) Mr. Donovan Rookwood;
- 6) Dr. Marcia Rowe-Amonde;
- 7) Mrs. Delize Williams (ex-officio);
- 8) Mrs. Lecia Brown-Ellis;
- 9) Mrs. Tamaya Wilson;
- 10) Ms. Michelle James;
- 11) Mrs. Kemisha Anderson Thomas; and
- 12) Mr. George Gordon.

4. Proposals to Stimulate the Housing Market

Cabinet endorsed the decisions of the National Housing Trust (NHT) Board to increase the loan ceiling for new construction from the current \$4.5 million to \$5.5 million with effect from 1 November 2015 to 31 March 2017, in the first instance; and to lower the interest rate for all new categories of borrowers by one percentage point.

The NHT was established to carry out two primary functions, which are to add to and improve the existing supply of housing, and to enhance the usefulness of the funds of the Trust by promoting greater efficiency in the housing sector. The adjustments by the NHT are intended to make housing units more affordable and stimulate activities in the construction sector.

5. World Health Organization Recommendations on Strategies and Actions to deal with the Ebola Virus Disease

Cabinet noted an update from the Ministry of Health on the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding recommendations on strategies and actions to deal with the Ebola Virus Disease.

The 7th meeting of the Emergency Committee convened by the WHO Director-General, regarding the Ebola Virus Disease out-break in West Africa in September 2014 was held from 1-3 October 2015 by teleconference and teleconference correspondence. Cabinet was informed that the Emergency Committee advised that the Ebola Virus Disease continues to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Information was provided on the updated temporary recommendations made by the Emergency Committee for States with Ebola transmission, as well as the recommendations for all States.

6. Update on Audit of the Regional Health Authorities

Cabinet noted information provided by the Ministry of Health with respect to the findings of an audit of the Regional Health Authorities.

An audit of the maternity, operating theatres, neonatal units, intensive care, and accident and emergency areas of the Regional Health Authorities was undertaken over the period May to June 2015. The objectives of the audit were to determine the status of these areas, identify existing gaps in the delivery of adequate health care services at the hospital level, and recommend interventions to address gaps. The actions of the Ministry of Health, in response to the findings and recommendations of the audit were outlined.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
3 December 2015