

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 7 DECEMBER 2015

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

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Compulsory Acquisition of Land in Westmoreland by the National Water Commission;
6. Ratification of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO);
7. Space Rationalization in the Public Sector; and
8. Report on Meeting of the Ministers of Trade of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, Brussels, Belgium, 20-21 October 2015.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Purchase of Four Aircraft and Upgrade of the Flight Training Device for the Caribbean Military Aviation School

Cabinet approved the award of two contracts to Diamond Aircraft Industries Inc., on behalf of the Jamaica Defence Force, as follows:

- (i) in the amount of US\$1,583,650.00 for the purchase of four Diamond DA40 CS fixed wing aircraft; and
- (ii) in the amount of €72,574.89 for the upgrade of the Diamond DA42 Flight Training Device.

The Caribbean Military Aviation School offers both pilot and aircraft maintenance training to countries of the region. With the ongoing expansion of the institution, there is an urgent need to expand its capacity.

(ii) Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Vehicle Equipment and Related Goods for the Norman Manley International Airport

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,558,338.00 to Oshkosh Airport Products, LLC for the supply and delivery of one Oshkosh Striker 3000 Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Vehicle, equipment and related goods for the Norman Manley International Airport.

The purchase of this equipment is necessary to complete the modernisation of the aircraft rescue and fire-fighting fleet of vehicles, and to ensure that the airport fulfils its obligations to the International Civil Aviation Organisation.

(iii) Project Management and Engineering Consultancy Services Agreement for K-Factor – Lot KF-01 Projects

Cabinet ratified the award of a contract in the amount of \$174 million to the Rural Water Supply Limited by the National Water Commission (NWC), for the provision of project management and engineering consultancy services for the NWC's K-Factor Lot KF01 group of projects.

The K-Factor projects will improve the water supply infrastructure, including fixing old and leaking pipes, to reduce water losses and improve water quality. The projects covered under this contract are located in the parishes of Clarendon, St. Elizabeth, St. Mary and Westmoreland.

2. Legislation

(i) The Financial Services Commission (Amendment) Act, 2015

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

The Bill seeks to amend the Financial Services Commission Act to allow the Commission to borrow sums required to meet any obligations or carry out any of its functions, subject to the approval of the Minister with responsibility for finance.

(ii) The Sexual Harassment Act, 2015

Cabinet gave approval for a Bill entitled "The Sexual Harassment Act, 2015" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill aims to address the problem of sexual harassment in Jamaica and covers persons in institutions, and the working environment, as well as landlord and tenant relationships.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Factories Corporation of Jamaica for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (ii) Montego Bay Free Zone Company Limited for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (iii) Ports Management and Security Limited for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (iv) Private Security Regulation Authority for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (v) Road Maintenance Fund for the financial year 2010/2011; and
- (vi) Trade Board for the financial year 2013/2014.

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

4. Board Appointments

(i) Climate Change Advisory Board

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Climate Change Advisory Board for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 7 December 2015 to 6 December 2017:

- 1) Dr. Conrad Douglas – **Chairman**;
- 2) Professor Michael Taylor – **Vice Chairman**;
- 3) Professor Anthony Chen;
- 4) Mrs. Eleanor Jones;
- 5) Professor Homero Silva;
- 6) Dr. Patricia Northover;
- 7) Dr. Ruth Potopsingh;
- 8) Ms. Judith Wedderburn;
- 9) Mr. Peter Knight;
- 10) Dr. Las Newman;
- 11) Ms. Gillian Guthrie – ex officio; and
- 12) Mr. Albert Daley – ex-officio.

(ii) Maxfield Park Children's Home

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors of the Maxfield Park Children's Home for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 7 December 2015 to 6 December 2018:

- 1) Mrs. Lucille Brodber – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Mrs. Karol Fernandez – **Vice Chairperson**;
- 3) Dr. Renee Rattray;
- 4) Father Donald Chambers;
- 5) Ms. Delrose Campbell;
- 6) Mrs. Sacha Vacciana Riley;
- 7) Professor Maureen Samms Vaughn;
- 8) Dr. Thea Davis;
- 9) Mr. Maurice Foster;
- 10) Miss Beverley Thompson;
- 11) Ms. Michelle McIntosh;
- 12) Ms. Marisa Benain; and
- 13) Mr. Andre Blair.

(iii) Scientific Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Scientific Authority for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 7 December 2015 to 6 December 2018:

- 1) Dr. Elaine Fisher – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Dr. Jane Cohen;
- 3) Dr. Karl Aiken;
- 4) Miss Tracey Commock;
- 5) Dr. Mona Webber;

- 6) Mrs. Dionne Newell;
- 7) Mr. Damion Whyte;
- 8) Mrs. Karen Barrett-Christie;
- 9) Dr. Gavin Bellamy; and
- 10) Miss Yvette Strong – ex officio.

5. Compulsory Acquisition of Land in Westmoreland by the National Water Commission

Cabinet gave approval for the National Water Commission to compulsorily acquire certain unregistered parcels of land in Revival, Orange Hill and Craighbannok in Westmoreland; and to make payment at market value, as determined by the Commissioner of Lands, after hearing the matter.

The National Water Commission (NWC) is seeking to acquire these parcels of land to enable the completion of the Nonpareil Water Supply Project, which entails the replacement and upgrading of supply mains on the distribution system to the Nonpareil/Sheffield/ Orange Hill service area.

6. Ratification of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO)

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's ratification of the Protocol Amending the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization, in order to insert the Agreement on Trade Facilitation into Annex 1A to the World Trade Organization Agreement.

The Agreement on Trade Facilitation would simplify and streamline procedures relating to international trade; and the benefits to be derived from such trade facilitation. The National Trade Facilitation Task Force is currently working on a comprehensive assessment of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation to identify the required changes to the Customs Act and other relevant legislation.

7. Space Rationalization in the Public Sector

Cabinet gave approval for an initiative for the rationalization of space in the public sector and its management, involving the movement of Government offices from privately-owned buildings to publicly-owned buildings on a phased basis and the allocation of seed money to finance the space rationalization.

Currently the Government faces high expenditure on rentals from the private sector, and there is inefficient management of existing Government properties. This rationalisation will help to decrease the amount paid in rent by the Government and ensure that Government entities are located in appropriate buildings.

8. Report on Meeting of the Ministers of Trade of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group, Brussels, Belgium, 20-21 October 2015

Cabinet noted a report on the deliberations and decisions of the Meeting of the Ministers of Trade of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group held in Brussels, Belgium over the period 20 to 21 October 2015.

The Meeting outlined the necessary preparations for the participation of the ACP Group of States in the 10th Ministerial Conference (MC10) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) scheduled for 15 to 18 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
6 January 2016

