

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 4 JANUARY 2016

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 January 2016:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointment;
5. Double Taxation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of The United Mexican States;
6. Hosting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) First Coordination Meeting on the Management of Radioactive Sources in the Caribbean Region; and
7. Hosting of the Regional Secretariat of the Association of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branches of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region for the period 2015-2018.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Firefighters' Protective Clothing (Bunker Gear) for the Jamaica Fire Brigade

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$536,625.83, inclusive of General Consumption Tax (GCT), to Bell Safety Limited for the purchase of 150 suits of protective clothing, 350 pairs of fire boots, and 590 protective hoods for the Jamaica Fire Brigade.

The Jamaica Fire Brigade is experiencing a serious shortfall of critical protective clothing for firefighters. The need for the procurement of additional protective clothing has become more urgent as the Jamaica Fire Brigade has embarked on the recruitment of new firefighters.

(ii) Construction Services (Labour Only) to Construct Newcastle Multipurpose Building

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$43,314,185.00 to Alcar Construction and Haulage Company Limited for the labour component of the construction of the Newcastle Multi-Purpose Building at the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) Military Training Wing at Newcastle, St. Andrew.

Newcastle is a site of major historic significance to the country and it is imperative that the Camp be preserved and maintained for posterity. The multi-purpose building will, among other things, contain a restaurant and gift shop, and will be open to persons who officially visit the camp or stop for sightseeing purposes.

(iii) Purchase of an 800 BHP Firetube Boiler

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$421,000.00 to Powerhouse Equipment and Engineering Company for the supply of an 800 BHP Firetube Boiler to Petrojam Limited.

Boilers are used in the operations at Petrojam to produce steam which is an essential utility in refining operations. It is necessary to procure an already fabricated new boiler as the current boilers are showing increasing rates of deterioration which reflect in high maintenance costs, frequent downtime and financial losses.

(iv) Building Modification at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$41,740,632.00 by the Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining to Marshall Construction Company Limited for the execution of construction and engineering works for building modification at the Bureau of Standards Jamaica.

The contract is being executed under the Energy Security and Efficiency Enhancement Project (ESEEP) which is funded by a World Bank loan. The Bureau of Standards Jamaica is one of the implementing arms of the ESEEP. The contract will allow for the expansion of the energy efficiency testing and labelling capacity of the Bureau of Standards Jamaica.

2. Legislation

(i) The Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act, 2016

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Criminal Justice (Administration) (Amendment) Act, 2016" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to impose an additional penalty on persons convicted of committing violent offences against children.

(ii) The Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Act, 2016

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Act, 2016" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to expand the categories of entities to which a person could make a report in relation to the need for care and protection, and to make specific reference to the offence of parental neglect.

(iii) The Interpretation (Amendment) Act, 2016

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Interpretation (Amendment) Act, 2016" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Act by allowing for more appropriate and realistic monetary penalties that could be imposed by Regulations made under Acts of Parliament.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Jamaica Dairy Development Board for the financial year 2010/2011;
- (ii) Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation for the financial year 2014/2015;
- (iii) Jamaica Racing Commission for the financial year 2013/2014;
- (iv) Social Development Commission for the financial years 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/2014; and
- (v) Students' Loan Bureau for the financial year 2013/2014.

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

4. Board Appointment

Universal Service Fund

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Mrs. Gail Moss-Solomon as a member of the Board of Management of the Universal Service Fund, with effect from 4 January 2016 to 7 September 2016, when the tenure of the existing Board will expire.

5. Double Taxation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of The United Mexican States

Cabinet gave approval for a Double Taxation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the United Mexican States.

Double taxation agreements aim to provide for the full protection of taxpayers against double taxation of income, and to allow for the free flow of international trade and investment. Jamaica has had a long standing trading relationship with Mexico. The Agreement covers how various items of income and capital gains will be taxed when the source is in one contracting state but the recipient is a resident of the other contracting state.

6. Hosting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) First Coordination Meeting on the Management of Radioactive Sources in the Caribbean Region

Cabinet gave approval for the International Atomic Energy Agency's First Coordination Meeting on Management of Radioactive Sources in the Caribbean Region to be hosted by the International Centre for Environmental Nuclear Sciences during the period 4-8 April 2016.

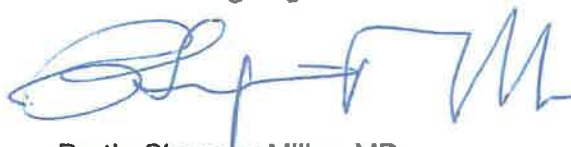
The International Centre for Environmental Nuclear Sciences (ICENS) operates the only research nuclear reactor in the Caribbean, which is housed on the Mona campus of the University of the West Indies. ICENS has previously partnered with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of which Jamaica is a member, in the hosting of conferences, workshops, meetings and research fellows, as well as in the development of programmes. The meeting will allow for a formal setting in which Jamaica's regional partners will be sensitized to the issues involved in the proper management of radioactive sources.

7. Hosting of the Regional Secretariat of the Association of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branches of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region for the period 2015-2018

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's hosting of the Regional Secretariat of the Association of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branches of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region for the period 2015-2018.

The Association of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Branches of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region is a regional affiliate of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). The Regional Association engages in a number of activities, including training of members and parliamentary staff in parliamentary practice and procedure, and acts as a forum for information sharing and networking.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP
Prime Minister
26 January 2016