

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 5 DECEMBER 2016

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 5 December 2016:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Damage to the Road Network and Associated Structures Due to Flood Rains Over the Period 23-31 May 2016;
6. National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme;
7. Appointment of a National Security Advisor and Establishment of the Office of the National Security Advisor;
8. Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica Agreement for the Period 2016 – 2020;
9. MS Monarch Cruise Ship to Make a Call on Kingston; and
10. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

1.1. Provision of Private Security Services HEART Trust/NTA Ebony Park Academy

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$152,124,231.17, inclusive of GCT, to Allied Protection Limited for the provision of security services at the HEART Trust/NTA Ebony Park Academy for a period of twenty-seven months.

This procurement represents the provision of security services at the HEART Trust/NTA Ebony Park Academy (Zone 5) for twenty-seven months.

1.2. Single-Source Procurement of an Upgraded Microwave System for the Jamaica Constabulary Force

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$2,244,273.00 to Ceragon Networks for the upgrade of the Jamaica Constabulary Force Microwave Network.

The microwave network provides the backbone communication infrastructure that primarily supports the recently upgraded and expanded Motorola Mobile Radio system. It also provides data communication services for the Traffic Ticketing System.

1.3. Design, Construction and Delivery of Three Pilot Boats for the Port Authority of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$2,835,000.00 to North River Boats for the design, construction and delivery of three 22 Knots Pilot Boats for the Port Authority of Jamaica, for service to the public and private port facilities in and around the Port of Kingston.

This procurement is a part of the strategic efforts of the Port Authority of Jamaica to upgrade the berthing capabilities and related services and operating procedures in the light of the expansion of the Panama Canal and the potential for increased transit of larger vessels through the Port of Kingston.

1.4. Design and Construction of Four Steel Frame Superstructures for the Portmore Business Process Outsourcing Operations Complex

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$6,589,217.81 to American Steel Building Corporation/Empresa Constructora Bella Vista Limited (ASBC-ECBV) Joint Venture for the design and construction of four steel frame superstructures for the Portmore Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Complex.

The site is intended to be a modern, purpose-designed BPO facility, in keeping with the Government's push to be a major player in the BPO sector which has been prioritised as a major sector of potential economic growth.

1.5. Upgrading Works to the Turtle Walk (Phase 5B) – Marina Entry to Ocho Rios Beach Bay, the Promenade, Ocho Rios, St. Ann

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$133,741,729.00 to Build-Rite Construction Company Limited to carry out upgrading works to Turtle Walk (Phase 5B), Marina Entry to Ocho Rios Bay Beach, the Promenade, Ocho Rios, St. Ann.

This project forms a part of the overall development project aimed at significantly improving the tourism product and visitor experience in the town of Ocho Rios, by improving the spatial and visual quality of specific sections of the town.

1.6. Procurement of a Cardiac Catheterization/ Interventional Suite at the University Hospital of the West Indies

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,992,432.00 to Phillips International for the provision of a Cardiac Catheterization/Interventional Suite at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI).

This procurement will improve the ability of the UHWI to address cardiac, neurological, vascular and other diseases and emergencies such as heart attacks and stroke.

1.7. Phase Two of the Implementation of the Electronic Government Procurement System in Jamaica

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,340,000.00 to European Dynamics UK for the provision of additional system modules and related implementation and support services, by means of a follow-on contract in respect of the implementation of the electronic government procurement system in Jamaica.

The electronic government procurement system is being developed out of the need for a more efficient and transparent system which will be improved through the greater use of technology. This project will be funded through the Public Sector Efficiency Program (PSEP).

2. Legislation

2.1. The Building Act, 2016

Cabinet gave approval for the tabling of a Bill entitled “The Building Act, 2016” in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to modernize the existing legal framework for the effective regulation and control of building-related activities to ensure public safety and welfare, minimize damage due to natural or man-made hazards, prevent squatter settlements and promote sustainable development.

2.2. The Public Debt Management (Amendment) Act, 2016

Cabinet gave approval for the tabling of a Bill entitled “The Public Debt Management (Amendment) Act, 2016” in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill, among other things, seeks to amend the Act in order to make certain provisions more detailed and more consistent with international and local standards and conform to other Acts, and to empower the Minister to appoint the Bank of Jamaica to act as the fiscal agent for the Government, in accordance with a signed fiscal agent agreement.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Bureau of Standards Jamaica for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (ii) Parole Board for Calendar Year 2015; and
- (iii) Port Authority of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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

4. Board Appointments

4.1. Institute of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Council for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 12 December 2016 to 11 December 2019:

- 1) Mr. Howard Mitchell – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Marigold Harding – **Vice Chairman**;
- 3) Bishop Hero Blair – **Vice Chairman**;
- 4) Mr. Tom Tavares-Finson;
- 5) Ms. Joy Douglas;
- 6) Mr. Stephen Golding;
- 7) Professor Ronald Young;
- 8) Professor Rupert Lewis;
- 9) Mr. Stephen Facey;
- 10) Dr. Pamela Appelt;
- 11) Mrs. Laleta Davis Mattis – *ex officio*;
- 12) Mr. Hugh Nash – *ex officio*;
- 13) Mr. Vivian Crawford – *ex officio*;
- 14) Professor Sir Fitzroy Augier – Fellow;
- 15) Honourable Barbara Gloudon, OJ – Fellow;

- 16) Professor Gerald Lalor – Fellow;
- 17) Professor George Lamming – Fellow; and
- 18) The Most Honourable Edward Seaga, ON, PC – Fellow.

4.2. Jamaica Information Service Advisory Board

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Advisory Board for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 5 December 2016 to 4 December 2018:

- 1) Mrs. Gail Abrahams – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Sharon Haye-Webster;
- 3) Mr. Robert Nesta Morgan;
- 4) Mr. Garfield Higgins;
- 5) Mr. Warren Newby;
- 6) Ms. Vicki Hanson; and
- 7) Ms. Novlette Howell.

4.3. National Council on Technical Vocational Education and Training

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. David Mais as a member of the Council with effect from 5 December 2016 to 15 May 2019, when the tenure of the Council will expire.

4.4. Universal Service Fund Company Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of Ms. Carolyn Warren as a member of the Board of Management with effect from 5 December 2016 to 3 April 2018, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

4.5. Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Debby Ann Brown Salmon as Chairman of the Board of Directors with effect from 12 December 2016 to 6 November 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

5. Damage to the Road Network and Associated Structures Due to Flood Rains Over the Period 23-31 May 2016

Cabinet approved the allocation of \$195,139,000.00 to the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation for urgent restorative road works across the parish of St. Thomas occasioned by the heavy rains during the period 23 to 31 May 2016.

Heavy rains and thunderstorms affected the island over the period 23 to 31 May 2016 and had a devastating impact on the roadways and drainage infrastructure in the parish of St. Thomas particularly. The National Works Agency (NWA) determined that sixteen road sections in the parish had been affected by the flood rains over the period.

6. National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme

Cabinet gave approval for the draft National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme to be tabled in Parliament as a Green Paper, to facilitate public consultations.

The National Policy on Poverty and a National Poverty Reduction Programme will replace Jamaica's Policy Toward Poverty Eradication and the National Poverty Eradication Programme

(NPEP). The Policy is being developed in alignment with the Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan and in the context of the *Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan*, which outlined a set of strategies aimed at poverty reduction.

7. Pathways Policy for Secondary Education

Cabinet gave approval for the development of the Pathways Policy for Secondary Education.

The Pathways Policy for Secondary Education aims at providing diverse learning opportunities to meet differentiated needs of learners and engendering improved educational outcomes for all students. A pilot of the pathways approach commenced in September 2016 and the results of the pilot will be used to inform the development of the Policy.

8. Appointment of a National Security Advisor and Establishment of the Office of the National Security Advisor

Cabinet approved the establishment of the Office of the National Security Advisor, headed by the National Security Advisor, as well as the absorption of the National Security Policy Coordination Unit into the Office of the National Security Advisor. Cabinet also noted the appointment of Brigadier Rocky Meade as Chief of Defence Staff with effect from 1 December 2016.

The Government is making changes to the national security architecture, and the appointment of a National Security Advisor is a step towards a more effective and coherent coordination of national security operations; and is in keeping with international best practices.

9. Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica Agreement for the Period 2016–2020

Cabinet gave approval for the signing of the new Social Partnership Agreement by the Government of Jamaica and its respective partners in the social partnership process, on 7 December 2016 at King's House.

The new draft Partnership for a Prosperous Jamaica Agreement for the 2016-2020 period is the continuation of the social partnership among the State (Government of Jamaica and the Opposition), the private sector, the labour unions and civil society. The Partnership aims to achieve consensus on issues of national importance.

10. MS Monarch Cruise Ship to Make a Call on Kingston

Cabinet noted that the MS Monarch Cruise Ship with 2,700 passengers on board would make a call on Kingston the following day (Tuesday, 6 December 2016). It noted that the tours planned for the passengers included locations in and around Kingston, including Port Royal, Devon House and Bob Marley Museum, as well as visits to Spanish Town, St. Catherine and Dunn's River Falls in St. Ann.

11. Reports

11.1. Findings of the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions 2013 and 2014

Cabinet considered two reports advising of the findings of the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) 2013 and 2014.

The reports provided highlights of the findings of the JSLC with regard to social indicators, notably, the mean per capita consumption, poverty prevalence rates, population aging, household size, healthcare-seeking behaviour, school enrolment at the secondary and tertiary levels, the quality of the housing stock, and participation by birth mothers and birth fathers in the homes of children in the early childhood cohort.

11.2. Annual Report of the National Social Protection Committee

Cabinet considered a report providing an update on the deliberations of the National Social Protection Committee (NSPC), a multi-sectoral body established to provide policy-level guidance to the implementation of the country's Social Protection Strategy.

The report pointed out that the Annual Report of the NSPC focused on the first year of the Committee's deliberations and that the main policy issues included the following:

- a) demographic trends and their implications for population ageing and the provision of social security;
- b) the unviable state of the National Insurance Fund;
- c) streamlining of school-feeding benefits to children on welfare;
- d) an effective institutional arrangement for coordinating the development and implementation of local social protection mandates; and
- e) the need for overarching social protection legislation to define and guarantee social protection rights.

11.3. Celebration of the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation Designation of Kingston as Creative City of Music

Cabinet considered a report advising of the celebration of the 1st year of the designation of Kingston as a Creative City of Music by the United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) with an art, music and cultural festival, incorporating the "Kumba Mi Yabba" artisan fair on the Kingston Waterfront on Sunday, 4 December 2016.

The report also advised that, by becoming a part of the UNESCO Creative City Network, the city of Kingston had committed to sharing best practices, developing partnerships, promoting creativity in cultural life and integrating culture and the arts in urban development plans.

11.4. Strategies to Address the Shortage of Specialist Nurses

Cabinet considered a report advising of proposed strategies to address the shortage of specialist nurses in the public health sector.

The report advised of the initiatives that the Ministry of Health was proposing to embark on an effort to improve the staff-patient ratio in the nursing workforce. The proposed strategies include addressing the issue of security of tenure, legislative amendments to widen the scope of nurse practitioners, and training of more specialist nurses.

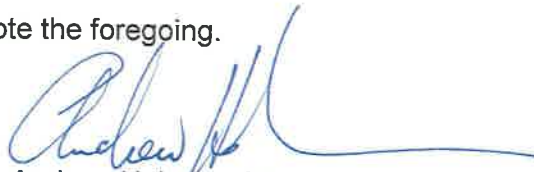
11.5. Report on the Ministerial Mission to the Republic of the Philippines, 27-28 October 2016

Cabinet considered a report advising of the outcomes of the joint public and private sector investment mission to the Republic of the Philippines during the period 27 to 28 October 2016.

The objectives of the mission were to consult with leading players in the Filipino business process outsourcing (BPO) sector to understand the growth of their BPO sector and the aspects of Jamaica's policy/legislative framework which would have to be adapted for international competitiveness as well as to promote Jamaica as a destination for Filipino BPO investors.

Some of the key factors for a competitive BPO sector that were identified were a proper regulatory environment and appropriate tax incentives, a sufficient pool of young, well trained personnel and a strong institutional framework which should be properly funded and encouraged to become a national or regional entity.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
31 January 2017

