

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 19 DECEMBER 2016

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 December 2016:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Eight Rivers Energy Company Limited Generation Licence, 2016;
5. Project for the Improvement of the Emergency Communication System in Jamaica;
6. Establishment of the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) Secretariat; and

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

1.1. Variation of Contract – Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) Project – Boscobel and Elletson Flats Wastewater Treatment Plants Replacement Project – National Water Commission (NWC)

Cabinet approved a variation in the amount of J\$25,468,275.42 plus US\$204,521.45 to a contract originally valued at US\$4,131,683.01 for the design and construction of wastewater treatment plants at Boscobel in the parish of St. Mary and Elletson Flats in the parish of St. Andrew.

This variation has been necessitated by a change in the effluent standard that is required under the approval of the National Environmental Planning Agency licence for the construction. These standards were different from those which were stated at the time of bidding for the works.

1.2. Award of Contract for the Supply of Uniforms for Pre-Supervisory, Supervisory and Management Staff (2017-2019) – National Water Commission (NWC)

Cabinet approved the award of two contracts for the supply of uniforms to the National Water Commission (NWC) for the period 2017-2019 as follows:

- (i) to Design by Marc in the amount of US\$357,716.50; and
- (ii) to Fabric Consultants Limited in the amount of US\$739,518.00.

The NWC has a contractual obligation to provide uniforms and selected items of clothing to its approximately two thousand employees. These contracts are for the supply of uniforms to pre-supervisory, supervisory and management staff at the Commission.

1.3. Award of Contract – Spruce-Up Jamaica All Island Maintenance Project

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$351,959,359.00 to the National Solid Waste Management Authority for the provision of tools, labour and planting materials

to implement the Spruce-Up Jamaica All Island Maintenance Project over a period of six months.

The “Spruce-Up Jamaica All Island Maintenance” programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism with a focus on creating partnership between the public and private sectors and communities in and around resort areas with respect to beautification and solid waste management.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Public Accountancy Board for the Financial Year 2015/2016; and
- (ii) Runaway Bay Water Company Limited for the Financial Year 2012/2013.

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

3. Board Appointments

Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Victor Green and Mr. Saleem Lazarus as members of the Board with effect from 19 December 2016 to 5 April 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

4. Eight Rivers Energy Company Limited Generation Licence, 2016

Cabinet authorized the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology to execute the non-exclusive Eight Rivers Energy Company Limited Generation Licence, 2016, thereby granting permission to Eight Rivers Energy Company Limited to supply up to 37 Megawatts net electricity to the national grid utilizing solar energy.

In 2012 the Office of Utilities Regulation issued a Request for Proposals for the provision of 115 Megawatts of additional generation capacity from renewable sources. This licence represents the final 37 Megawatts of the originally required 115 Megawatts.

5. Project for the Improvement of the Emergency Communication System in Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the implementation of a project for the improvement of emergency communication systems for Jamaica, to be funded by a grant in the amount of US\$12 million from the Government of Japan, on the basis that the system must be synchronized with the existing communication system operated by the National Works Agency and the Jamaica Constabulary Force.

Jamaica is currently without an effective emergency telecommunication infrastructure and platform to facilitate timely communication among government agencies and first responders during an emergency; and the existing inventory of emergency telecommunications and early warning systems in Jamaica is limited and unsuitable for major or wide-area impact in times of disaster.

6. Establishment of the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) Secretariat

Cabinet:

- (i) gave approval for the Commissioner of Lands, National Land Agency to enter into a lease agreement with Jamaica Property Company Limited for, and on behalf of, the National Contracts Commission for a period of three (3) years in the first instance to secure office accommodation on the 3rd Floor, 60 Knutsford Boulevard, Kingston 5 premises, for the new Public Procurement Commission Secretariat; and
- (ii) instructed that the Minister of Finance and the Public Service examine the costs of the separation of the National Contracts Commission with respect to the Office of the Contractor General, to ensure that there was no need for incremental funding from the Government.

In 2010, the Cabinet gave approval, in principle, for the separation of the National Contracts Commission (NCC) from the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) and the establishment of the NCC Secretariat. The major issue warranting the separation was the inherent and evident conflict in the current operational arrangement for the entities, whereby the sharing of staff and resources between the OCG and the NCC had compromised the independence of both.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

31 January 2017

