

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 9 January 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Provision of Additional Funds to Offset Outstanding Payments for the Early Retirement Incentive Scheme in the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF);
5. Transportation Support to Farmers in the Long Pond/ Hampden Sugar Production Area for the 2016/2017 Crop Year;
6. Revision of the National Population Policy and Plan of Action;
7. The Forest Policy of Jamaica;
8. Alternative Development Programme for the Transition of Traditional Ganja Farmers into the Regulated Cannabis Regime;
9. Hosting of Meetings/Conferences;
10. Expansion of Training through the Development of a Hotel School;
11. Expansion of Employment through the Development of Artisan Villages; and
12. Jamaica's Progress on the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

1.1. Cane Haul Roads Rehabilitation Project, Phase 1, Package 2, Arcadia-Elderslie-Jointwood in St. Elizabeth

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$136,125,025.20 to Stone Plus Limited for the implementation of the Cane Haul Roads Rehabilitation Project, Phase 1, Package 2 Arcadia-Elderslie-Jointwood in St. Elizabeth under the Sugar Transformation Programme.

The proposed works comprise earthworks, rehabilitation of roadways, installation of new kerb walls and concrete drainage channels, construction of earth retaining structures, gabion walls and limited re-alignment of road sections.

1.2. Port Antonio Water, Sewerage and Drainage Project (Stage 2) Design and Construct Sewerage Conveyance Treatment and Disposal

Cabinet approved the award of the contract in the amounts of J\$361,928,743.45 and US\$4,721,641.82 to Vinci Construction Grands Projects for the design and construction of sewage conveyance treatment and disposal systems for Port Antonio in the parish of Portland.

The works to be performed include design, construction, supply, delivery, offloading, erection, site installation, testing, commissioning and putting into service civil works,

mechanical and electrical plant and automatic control systems, as necessary, to meet performance requirements to be stipulated by the National Environment and Planning Agency.

## 2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Bath Corporation for the Financial Years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015;
- (ii) Caribbean Maritime Institute for the Financial Year 2013/2014;
- (iii) Commission for the Prevention of Corruption for the Year 2015/2016;
- (iv) General Legal Council for the Financial Years 2014/2015 and 2015/2016;
- (v) Jamaica Tourist Board for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (vi) Jamaica Vacations for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (vii) Land Administration and Management Programme for the Financial Year 2006/2007; and
- (viii) Tourism Enhancement Fund for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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

## 3. Board Appointments

### 3.1. Jamaica Railway Corporation

Cabinet approved the appointment of Ms. Ann Marie Chin to the Board of Directors with effect from 9 January 2017 to 8 May 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

### 3.2. Nutrition Products Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 9 January 2017 to 8 January 2020:

- 1) Mr. Ewart Gilzene – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Haldane Brown – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Mr. Rory King;
- 4) Mr. Collin Newman;
- 5) Ms. Dorothy Finlayson;
- 6) Ms. Joyce Young;
- 7) Ms. Natalie Murray;
- 8) Mr. Robert Collie;
- 9) Ms. Krystal Lee;
- 10) Mr. Andrew Bellamy;
- 11) Dr. Vicki Hanson;
- 12) Mr. Donovan Samuels; and
- 13) Mr. Robert Miller.

### 3.3. Strata Appeals Tribunal

Cabinet gave approval for the amendment of the tenure of the Tribunal, so that commencement would be with effect from 15 August 2016 and conclusion on 14 August 2018.

4. Provision of Additional Funds to Offset Outstanding Payments for the Early Retirement Incentive Scheme in the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF)

Cabinet approved:

- (i) the payment of an additional sum of \$310 million in the 2017/2018 financial year to fifty-four ex-members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, under the Early Retirement Incentive Scheme of the Jamaica Constabulary Force;
- (ii) the proposal for payments to be up to the equivalent of a maximum of one year's (12 months) salary;
- (iii) the continuation of the Early Retirement Incentive Scheme as a management tool, with final approval of the list by the Minister of National Security, based on recommendations by the Commissioner of Police and on the advice of the National Security Council; and
- (iv) the application of the provisions only to selected members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, to encourage separation in the national interest or to facilitate improvements, leading to increased efficiency and effectiveness.

5. Transportation Support to Farmers in the Long Pond/ Hampden Sugar Production Area for the 2016/2017 Crop Year

Cabinet approved the sum of \$51 million in transportation support to assist 282 farmers who supply the Long Pond Sugar Factory in the parish of Trelawny, for the 2016/2017 crop year, in the light of the closure of the Long Pond Sugar Cane Factory. The cane will be moved to the Worthy Park, Frome and Appleton factories.

Transportation support is critical to the survival of the 282 small farmers and it is one of the initiatives intended to curtail losses and hardships endured by them. Support to these farmers also has a beneficial effect on the economy of their communities and the parishes of Trelawny and St. James.

6. Revision of the National Population Policy and Plan of Action

Cabinet approved the process to commence the revision of the National Population Policy and Plan of Action (1995), which includes a Population Situation Analysis articulating the changes in the demographic, economic, social and environmental conditions of Jamaica since 1995 that will provide the basis for crafting a revised policy for the period beyond 2016.

The revision is proposed due to evidence that population growth, combined with economic development and increasing levels of consumption, has resulted in changing demographic patterns which require greater integration of population dynamics in local and national development planning.

7. The Forest Policy of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the Forest Policy of Jamaica as a White Paper and its tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Policy, which is a revision of the 2001 Forest Policy, was tabled in the Houses of Parliament on 12 March 2015 as a Green Paper. The Green Paper was subject to extensive island-wide consultations, the outcomes of which have informed the amended Policy as a

The Policy will govern all forests in Jamaica, whether owned by the State or by private interests. The scope of the Policy covers land with reforestation potential and forests in urban settings, and addresses national priorities, as well as international obligations and commitments relating to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and the sustainable use of wetlands.

8. Alternative Development Programme for the Transition of Traditional Ganja Farmers into the Regulated Cannabis Regime

Cabinet gave approval for the implementation of a one-year pilot Alternative Development Programme, geared to the transitioning of currently illicit ganja farmers into the legal regulated industry.

The Alternative Development Programme aims to enable small traditional farmers who established the Jamaican brand in the global cannabis industry, and have suffered for the cause of creating a legal industry, to transition from illicit cultivation of ganja to a sustainable legal avenue.

9. Hosting of Meetings/Conferences

9.1. Hosting of the 10<sup>th</sup> International Labour Organization Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Labour

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host the 10<sup>th</sup> International Labour Organization (ILO) Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Labour in Kingston over the period 22 to 24 February 2017.

This 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Labour will be held under the theme "Inclusive Growth, Decent Work and the Future of Work in the Caribbean." The meeting will provide an opportunity to further the dialogue on the challenge to promote inclusive and sustainable development with more and better jobs within the decent work agenda.

9.2. United Nations World Tourism Organization Conference

Cabinet approved Jamaica's hosting of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Conference during the period 27 to 29 November 2017, as Jamaica's culminating event to mark the United Nations 2017 International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, and the associated budget.

Jamaica, through the Ministry of Tourism, will host and execute the conference in partnership with the UNWTO and Chemonics International, an international development partner with global conglomerates and a member of the UNWTO Affiliates.

10. Expansion of Training through the Development of a Hotel School

Cabinet gave approval for the development of a hotel school to offer a new type of training programme intended to revolutionise how Jamaican students studying hospitality and tourism are prepared for management and supervisory jobs in the tourism sector.

The commitment to the development of human capital for the tourism sector is at the centre of the plan to establish a Hotel School. This school will be a driver in Jamaica's growth strategy, through the development of a skilled and professional workforce educated and trained to world-class standards.

11. Expansion of Employment through the Development of Artisan Villages

Cabinet approved the development of a new tourism attraction, Artisan Villages, intended to expand the benefits of the tourism sector to persons now operating in the craft sub-sector.

The proposed Artisan Villages will provide a total Jamaican experience to Jamaicans and visitors, accommodate artisans and craft traders, and have uniquely Jamaican cuisine and cultural offerings. The first Artisan Village will be located at the Port of Falmouth and is expected to be open by December 2018.

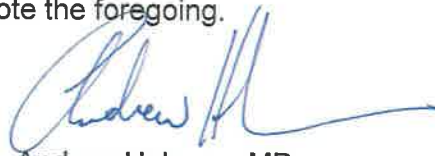
12. Jamaica's Progress on the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation with respect to Jamaica's progress to support the formulation process for the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its alignment with Vision 2030.

The report recalled that, in September 2015, the United Nations (UN) formally adopted the "Transforming Our World 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Programme", which marked the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the SDGs. The report stated that new global development agenda was inclusive and focused on sustainability, taking into account the value of human rights for all, gender equality, peace and prosperity, whilst seeking to balance the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

The report advised of the establishment of a multi-ministerial working group to coordinate the national process with respect to the SDGs; Jamaica's participation in related processes at the UN and in Jamaica; consultations and work done to date; and the next steps of the process to enable the development of implementation strategies to achieve the SDGs and facilitate their integration into the Vision 2030 framework.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister  
31 January 2017

