

MINISTRY PAPER No. 15 - 2017

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 27 JANUARY 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 27 January 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. International Agreements;
5. Acquisition of Properties;
6. Establishment of the Jamaica 55 Secretariat;
7. Hosting of the 2017 Caribbean Regional Conference on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and
8. Findings and Recommendations of the Government of Jamaica Customer Service Assessment.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

1.1. Procurement of Telecommunication Equipment for the Jamaica Defence Force

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the sum of US\$1,463,495.69 to Motorola Solutions Inc. for the procurement of a telecommunications equipment upgrade package for the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), provision for which had been made in the Capital A budget of the Ministry of National Security for the financial year 2016/2017.

The current JDF communication apparatus has exhausted the projected life cycle and has proven to be less effective, resulting in poor or non-existent communication in some operational areas.

1.2. Award of Contract for the Redevelopment of the Ocho Rios Fishing Village

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$163,637,332.74 to M&M Jamaica Limited for the execution of the Ocho Rios Fishing Village Redevelopment Project, Phase II in Ocho Rios, St. Ann.

Phase II of the project will focus on the development of facilities for the fishermen of Ocho Rios, as well as the construction of an elevated structure for covered dining on the lower level and major restaurants on the upper level.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Coconut Industry Board for the 2015 Calendar Year;
- (ii) Companies Office of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2014/2015;
- (iii) Jamaica Dairy Development Board for the Financial Year 2012/2013;
- (iv) Jamaica Urban Transit Company Ltd. for the Financial Year 2013/2014; and

(v) National Land Agency for the Financial Year 2006/2007.

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

3. Board Appointments

3.1. Vocational Development Training Institute

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Marcia Rowe-Amonde and Mr. Kevin Jones to the Board of Management with effect from 27 January 2017 to 12 June 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

4. Vernamfield Development Project Enterprise Team

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Patricia R. Francis, CD, to the Enterprise Team for the Vernamfield Development Project.

5. International Agreements

5.1. The CARICOM-Cuba Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement

Cabinet approved the:

- (i) signature of the Second Protocol appending the final negotiated outcomes to the CARICOM-Cuba Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (TECA),
- (ii) phased liberalization of ten additional products, for which there were no strong revenue or production-related considerations, over periods of ten or fifteen years; and
- (iii) completion of the technical negotiations towards the expansion of the CARICOM-Cuba TECA.

The 10th Meeting of the CARICOM-Cuba Joint Commission was scheduled for the period 30-31 January 2017 in Georgetown, Guyana. The outcomes of the 8th and 9th Meetings of the Joint Commission, as well as the outstanding elements, must be appended to the TECA via the signature of a Second Protocol.

5.2. The Statute Establishing the Small Island Developing States DOCK

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's accession to the Statute establishing the Small Island Developing States DOCK (SIDS DOCK) as a legal entity; and for the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to draft the requisite Order, pursuant to section 6 of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act.

The SIDS DOCK is a sustainable energy and climate resilience initiative designed to connect the energy sectors in Small Island Developing States with the global market for finance and sustainable energy technologies, and the carbon markets of the European Union and the United States of America, and enable them to trade the avoided carbon emissions in those markets.

6. Acquisition of Properties:

6.1. Transfer of Lands to the Factories Corporation of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the transfer of twelve (12) parcels of land and industrial estates, previously under the purview of the defunct Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, to the Factories Corporation of Jamaica (FCJ).

The twelve (12) parcels of land and industrial estates were previously under the purview of the now defunct Jamaica Industrial Development Corporation, and ownership is being transferred to the FCJ to assist the Corporation in fulfilling its mandate for the provision of factory space and the development of the country's industrial infrastructure.

6.2. Compulsory Acquisition of Properties

Cabinet gave approval for the compulsory acquisition of four privately-owned properties at an estimated total cost of \$12.5 million; that is, Lot R 140 Sydenham in St. Catherine, part of 81 St. Johns Road in St. Catherine, part of 12 Cedar Valley Road in St. Andrew, and part of 6 Cedar Valley Road in St. Andrew.

The properties are a part of the upgrading schemes of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, and have been declared under the Land Acquisition Act of 1947 to enable the Ministry to provide security of tenure for the occupants.

7. Establishment of the Jamaica 55 Secretariat

Cabinet:

- (i) approved the establishment, within the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, of a Secretariat to be responsible for the planning and implementation of the year-long activities to celebrate the 55th Anniversary of Jamaica's Independence;
- (ii) noted that the life of the Secretariat would be for an eighteen-month period from January 2017 to June 2018;
- (iii) noted that activities to be branded as "Jamaica 55" would take place over the period 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017, with the main celebratory period being 28 July 2017 to 6 August 2017, to coincide with the annual Independence celebrations; and
- (iv) noted that the Jamaica 55 celebrations would be a combination of celebratory/commemorative events and legacy projects.

Jamaica will celebrate 55 years of independence on 6 August 2017. Jamaica 55 will enable the Government of Jamaica to create a programme of activities that will allow Jamaicans at home and in the Diaspora, to reaffirm their pride in, and commitment to, national development and the achievement of a prosperous Jamaica.

8. Hosting of the 2017 Caribbean Regional Conference on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

Cabinet approved Jamaica hosting the 2017 Caribbean Regional Conference on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean, under the theme "Caribbean Development – the 2030 Agenda in Perspective".

The Conference will be held in Kingston over the period 28 to 30 June 2017. Over the course of the three (3) days, workshops will be conducted on challenges and issues in achieving the SDGs, as well as on devising appropriate solutions and strategies.

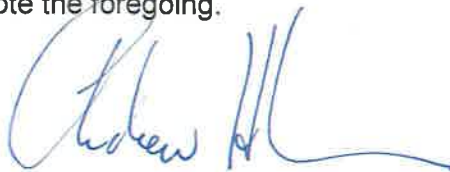
9. Findings and Recommendations of the Government of Jamaica Customer Service Assessment
Cabinet considered a report from the Cabinet Office in connection with a Public Sector Customer Service Assessment conducted between October 2014 and January 2015.

The report advised of the following main findings of the assessment:

- (a) Jamaicans wanted easier, more convenient, more seamless access to Government services;
- (b) there was demand for higher levels of quality and performance in service delivery; and
- (c) there was an immediate need for increased use of technology to support service delivery.

It further advised of areas identified for action, as well as activities being pursued for improved service delivery in the public sector such as fast-tracking the implementation of the Government e-Portal; the development and implementation of service improvement plans by Ministries; the design of a centralized customer service function; and the development of a Government of Jamaica Service Excellence Framework.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
February 2017