

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 10 & 13 APRIL 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meetings held on 10 & 13 April 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Report.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

- (i) Procurement of Reagents and Consumables with the Provision of Two Fully Automated Walk-away Analyzers for Performing Screening Tests for the National Blood Transfusion Services

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,071,150.00 to Lasco Distributors Limited, for the supply of reagents and consumables with the provision of two fully automated walk-away analyzers to the National Blood Transfusion Services for a period of three years.

The National Blood Transfusion Services provides a range of laboratory services that support the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, as well as the characterisation of blood types related to the cross-match process for blood donors and recipients in transfusion procedures. Consequently, it is necessary to purchase supplies to conduct testing which supports these activities.

- (ii) Supply and Installation of the New Mammography Equipment at the University Hospital of the West Indies

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$571,960.00 to Medimax-RSI LLC, for the supply and installation of new mammography equipment at the University Hospital of the West Indies.

This procurement is necessary as there was no functioning mammography machine in the public health-care system; and patients must depend on private health-care facilities, especially the Jamaica Cancer Society, to conduct tests.

2. Legislation

- (i) The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Companies (Amendment) Act, 2017" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to ensure that Jamaica conforms to the international standards for Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, and to provide for the administration and enforcement of domestic tax laws.

(ii) The General Consumption Tax (Removal of Tax Exemptions) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2017

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The General Consumption Tax (Removal of Tax Exemptions) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2017" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to remove the remaining General Consumption Tax exemptions that still apply to specified Government bodies.

(iii) The Licences on Trades and Business (Validation, Indemnification and Amendment) Act, 2017

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Licences on Trades and Business (Validation, Indemnification and Amendment) Act, 2017" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to:

- (a) validate and confirm as lawful, the imposition, variation, assessment and collection of trade and business licence duties by the Government during the period commencing 30 December 2015;
- (b) increase licence duty rates and fines under the Act; and
- (c) give the Minister the power to amend any Schedules and monetary penalties under the Act, subject to affirmative resolution in the House of Representatives.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Commission for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (ii) Board of Supervision for the Financial Years 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005;
- (iii) Jamaica Veterinary Board for the Financial Years 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015;
- (iv) PETROJAM Limited for the Financial Year 2014/2015;
- (v) Social Development Commission for the Financial Year 2014/2015; and
- (vi) Water Resources Authority for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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

4. Board Appointments

National Council on Education (NCE)

Cabinet noted the selection of nominees to the Council as under:

- 1) Mr. Ray Howell, Nominee of the Joint Confederation of Trade Unions;
- 2) Mr. Everton Hannam, Nominee of the National Parent-Teachers' Association of Jamaica; and

3) Ms. Paulette Simpson, Nominee of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association.

5. Report

Twenty-Eighth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Georgetown, Guyana 16-17 February 2017

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in connection with the deliberations and decisions of the Twenty-Eighth Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in Georgetown, Guyana over the period 16 to 17 February 2017.

The major topics discussed at the meeting included: regional security issues, notably terrorism and cross-border crime; the status of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME) and outstanding action, particularly with regard to the movement of skilled nationals and hassle-free movement in general; the establishment of the Forum of CARICOM First Ladies and Spouses of Heads of State and Government Network (CARIFLAN/CARISAN), the purpose of which included issues critical to women and children; the future of the Cotonou Agreement and the ACP Group, and the importance of a coordinated regional approach by CARICOM in that regard.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
May 2017