

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 19 JUNE 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 June 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Official Funeral for The Most Honourable Lady Cooke;
5. Charter for the Establishment of the Caribbean School of Medical Sciences in Jamaica; and
6. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Civil Infrastructure Works for the Villages of Colbeck Castle (Phases 1 & 2) Housing Development, St. Catherine

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$1,468,647,914.90 to M&M Jamaica Limited to undertake civil infrastructure works for Phases 1 and 2 of the Villages of Colbeck Castle Housing Development in St. Catherine.

The project is scheduled to be implemented in five (5) phases, yielding approximately two thousand five hundred and ninety-seven (2,597) housing solutions.

(ii) New Powerformer Furnace F-2 Replacement at PETROJAM Limited

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,919,200.00 to Complete Heat-Transfer Solutions for the supply of a new Powerformer Furnace F-2 Replacement at PETROJAM Limited.

The existing furnace has been experiencing a series of technical issues that necessitate the procurement of a new one.

2. Legislation

(i) The National Housing Trust (Amendment) (Special Provisions) Act, 2017

Cabinet approved the Bill entitled “The National Housing Trust (Amendment) (Special Provisions) Act, 2017” for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to add as a function, that the National Housing Trust may provide financing of up to a maximum annual amount of \$11.4 billion for fiscal consolidation in respect of each of the financial years ending on 31 March 2018, 31 March 2019, 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021, to allow for the financing to be provided by way of distribution, grant or otherwise, as the Minister responsible for finance may determine.

(ii) The New Forest/Duff House (Irrigation Area) (Amendment) Order, 2016

Cabinet approved the tabling in the Houses of Parliament of "The New Forest/Duff House (Irrigation Area) (Amendment) Order, 2016", for affirmative resolution, in accordance with section 3 of the Irrigation Act, 2001.

The Order seeks to expand the New Forest/Duff House Irrigation Area to include Essex Valley and Spring Ground, due to the growing demand for water supply systems to serve farmers.

3. Board Appointments

(i) African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica/Jamaica Memory Bank/Liberty Hall

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Shani Roper to the Board of Management with effect from 19 June 2017 to 7 May 2020, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) The Programmes Coordination Division (Junior Centre) of the Institute of Jamaica (IOJ)

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Jacqueline Bushay and Mr. Aldon Currie to the Board of Management with effect from 19 June 2017 to 30 April 2020, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

4. Official Funeral for The Most Honourable Lady Cooke

Cabinet gave approval for the according of an official funeral for The Most Honourable Lady Cooke, widow of the late former Governor-General, The Most Honourable Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCVO, CD.

Lady Cooke made outstanding contributions as an educator and held several leadership positions in the education arena namely, as Senior Assistant and Acting Principal at Bell Castle All Age School; as Senior Assistant at the Montego Bay High School for Girls; and at the Ministry of Education and Teacher Training Colleges as Supervisor and Assessor in the Teacher Internship Programme and Education Officer for Early Childhood.

5. Charter for the Establishment of the Caribbean School of Medical Sciences in Jamaica

Cabinet approved the grant of a Charter to establish the Caribbean School of Medical Sciences in Jamaica, subject to satisfactory arrangements for clinical training and the provision of adequate and suitably qualified faculty.

The Caribbean School of Medical Sciences in Jamaica is a medical and health training institution with the mandate and obligation to provide medical and health science training to local and international students and to prepare them for clinical rotations in Jamaica, the United States of America (USA) and Cuba, as well as to enable the students to sit external examinations.

6. Reports

(i) Costing the Social Protection Floor

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with a study conducted by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) to determine the cost of the public expenditure dimension of the social protection floor (SPF) under the Jamaica Social Protection Strategy (SPS).

The report informed of the launch of the SPS in July 2014 as the country's first comprehensive social protection framework. The objective of the SPS is to engender effective social protection. Social protection, as defined in the SPS, is "the set of provisions that employ public and private initiatives guided by state policies, to prevent, address and reduce the risks of poverty and vulnerability brought about by lack of, losses or interruption to income."

The report presented the preliminary baseline as \$106.5 billion or 6.17% of nominal gross domestic product (GDP) established in the study based on the 2016/2017 Estimates, and the total SPF costing gap of \$12.15 billion, using the 2017/2018 Estimates as the floor. The report noted that the baseline exceeds the 2.2% to 5.7% of GDP indicator suggested by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as an acceptable range for countries seeking to improve social protection.

(ii) External Examinations: Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Students Affected by Inclement Weather and Numbering on Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) Examination Papers

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with arrangements for the assessment of candidates for the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) who were unable to sit their examinations due to adverse weather conditions during the period 15 to 18 May 2017, and to address issues pertaining to the numbering on Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) examination papers in the current examination period.

The report informed of some 573 students from 59 schools island-wide who were unable to sit their examinations due to adverse weather conditions; issues with the numbering of questions on CSEC Mathematics and English examination papers; and the procedures proposed for implementation by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to address both issues.

(iii) Update on the Establishment of Artisan Villages

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Tourism in connection with the development of a new tourist attraction, Artisan Villages, for the purpose of expanding the benefits of the tourism sector for operators in the craft sub-sector.

The report informed of the objectives of the development of the Artisan Villages to improve the quality of craft products, increase visitor expenditure on craft products, increase employment, and generate opportunities for training, business support, expansion, and marketing; the elements of the Artisan Village; the intention to commence with the establishment of an Artisan Village at the Port of Falmouth, and the anticipated benefits therefrom; action underway for the establishment of the Craft Development Institute (CDI); and the next steps to be undertaken to implement the Artisan Village project.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

  
Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister  
August 2017

