

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 26 JUNE 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 26 June 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Report;
3. Board Appointment;
4. Jamaica's Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;
5. Budgetary Support for the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Fisheries' Farm Road Rehabilitation and Production and Productivity Programmes;
6. Implementation Road Map for the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
7. Official Funeral for Ambassador the Honourable Carlyle Dunkley, OJ; and
8. Report.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Reagent Lease Agreement for Laboratory Services within Health Facilities of the Southern Regional Health Authority

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$4,820,571.67, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Lasco Distributors Limited (Roche) for the procurement of a reagent lease agreement for laboratory services within the health facilities in the Southern Regional Health Authority for a period of three years

The contractor will be required to provide reagents and consumables in the required quantities and laboratory machines for chemistry, haematology and coagulation analyses for the five (5) hospitals and two (2) health centres within the Southern Regional Health Authority.

(ii) Development and Implementation of Shared Corporate Services in the Public Sector

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,562,604.00, exclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Ernst & Young Service Limited for the development and implementation of the operating model for shared corporate services in the public sector for a period of one year.

The full implementation of shared corporate services will introduce a shared services modality that will constitute rationalisation and consolidation of a range of fundamental administrative operations across Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

2. Annual Report

Cabinet considered the Annual Report of the Universal Service Fund for the Financial Year 2015/2016. The Report will be tabled in Parliament at a later date.

3. Board Appointment

(i) Council of the Institute of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of Professor the Honourable Denise Eledemire-Shearer and Mr. Patrick Stanigar to the Council with effect from 26 June 2017, and up to 11 December 2019 when the tenure of the Council will expire.

4. Jamaica's Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica's ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; and directed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade prepare and deposit the appropriate Instrument for Jamaica to become a party to the Convention, on condition that, at the time of deposit of the instrument of ratification:

- (i) an exemption under Article 6 to the phase out dates specified in Article 4 of the Convention was requested; and
- (ii) a declaration be made pursuant to Article 30(5) which specified that any amendment to an Annex of the Convention shall enter into force for Jamaica only upon the deposit of its instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance with respect thereto.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has indicated that voluntary actions have not been sufficient to address the concerns regarding the serious deleterious effects of mercury on human health and the environment on mercury. This has necessitated the development of the Convention as a global legally binding instrument on mercury.

5. Budgetary Support for the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Fisheries' Farm Road Rehabilitation and Production and Productivity Programmes

Cabinet approved the sum of \$250 million in additional budgetary support to the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Fisheries toward the expansion of the Farm Road Rehabilitation Programme and the Production Incentives Programme.

The rationale for this additional budgetary support stemmed from the success of the production incentives initiatives and the stymying effect of the poor state of farm roads, respectively. The support will be allocated as follows: the rehabilitation of 143 kilometres of roads (\$150 million) and production incentives (\$100 million).

6. Implementation Road Map for the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Cabinet approved the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Implementation Road Map for Jamaica and the establishment of the National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee for overseeing the implementation. Cabinet also affirmed the commitment to continue to utilise budgetary resources to achieve maximum effect with respect to the SDGs.

The Road Map was the result of an SDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) Mission deployed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 24 to 28 October 2016, at the request of the Government of Jamaica.

7. Official Funeral for Ambassador the Honourable Carlyle Dunkley, OJ

Cabinet approved the according of an official funeral for Ambassador the Honourable Carlyle Dunkley, OJ.

Ambassador the Honourable Carlyle Dunkley, OJ played several key roles in Jamaican public life, inclusive of Cabinet Minister, Government Senator and Deputy President of the Senate and a major figure in the Trade Union Movement for more than four decades as a member of the National Worker's Union, of which he was the President in 1977.

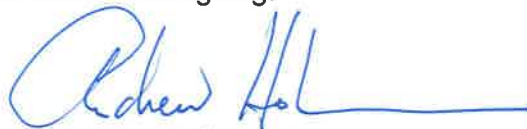
8. Report

The Integral Role of the Railway in Advancing the Overall Economic Development of the Country

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Transport and Mining in connection with the proposed rehabilitation of the railway system to assist the overall economic development of the country by creating opportunities for sustainable growth and partnerships.

The report outlined the vision for an integrated multi-modal transport system connecting air, sea and land; the plan for the revitalization of the rail system; the potential for the revitalization to significantly transform the economic landscape along the railway corridor and to generate significant social and economic benefits for the country; as well as the expected support to the tourism sector, the bauxite sector, the non-bauxite freight market, and other sectors such as utilities, fuel and telecommunications.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister  
August 2017

