

MINISTRY PAPER No. 54 – 2017

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 17 JULY 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 17 July 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Report;
4. New Air Services Agreements;
5. Extension of the Tenure of the Enterprise Team for the Privatization of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA);
6. Proposal to Host the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mid-Term Coordination Meeting on the Management of Radioactive Sources in the Caribbean Region;
7. Tourism Networks Policy and Strategy; and
8. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Supply of Plant and Equipment for Energy Efficient Air Conditioning Retrofits at the May Pen Hospital, Clarendon and the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Geddes Refrigeration Limited for the supply of plant and equipment for energy efficient air conditioning retrofits at:

- a) May Pen Hospital, Clarendon, Lot 1, in the amount of US\$345,203.00 and J\$24,908,249.05; and
- b) Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, National Heroes Circle, Lot 2, in the amount of US\$293,464.00 and J\$51,738,769.83.

The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP) promotes the use of inverter technology to ensure greater levels of efficiency and the attendant savings.

(ii) Supply of Medical Gases to the Western Regional Health Authority

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$121,594,831.67 to Industrial Gases Limited (IGL) for the supply of medical gases to the Western Regional Health Authority for a period of one year.

The gases to be provided are oxygen, nitrous oxide, nitrogen and carbon dioxide. IGL is the only supplier registered with the National Contracts Commission which provides medical gas and consumables.

2. Legislation

Local Governance (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2017

Cabinet approved the Bill entitled "The Local Governance (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2017" for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to provide for the exclusion of the month of August from the requirement under section 32 of the Local Governance Act, 2016 for each Corporation of a Local Authority to hold monthly meetings.

3. Annual Report

Cabinet considered the Annual Report of the Rural Water Supply Limited for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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

4. New Air Services Agreements

Cabinet gave approval for the Government of Jamaica to sign Air Services Agreements with the Governments of South Africa, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, the Republic of Seychelles, Italy, and Portugal, respectively.

The Agreements provide for air services between Jamaica and each of the countries outlined, and the negotiations therefor were conducted during the period 5 to 9 December 2016 at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Air Services Negotiation Conference (ICAN 2016) in Nassau, The Bahamas.

5. Extension of the Tenure of the Enterprise Team for the Privatization of the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA)

Cabinet gave approval for the extension of the tenure of the Enterprise Team for the privatization of the Norman Manley International Airport for a period of twenty (20) months, that is, from 11 July 2017 to 10 March 2019.

The extension of the tenure of the Enterprise Team for twenty (20) months is to ensure sufficient time for completion of the management of the divestment transaction process.

6. Proposal to Host the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mid-Term Coordination Meeting on the Management of Radioactive Sources in the Caribbean Region

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Mid-Term Coordination Meeting on the Management of Radioactive Sources in the Caribbean Region, during the period 11 to 15 December 2017 in Kingston.

The International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences in Jamaica (ICENS) secured international funding for a project developed to strengthen the control over radioactive sources and protect the public and the environment from ionizing radiation. The inaugural meeting for the Project took place in April 2016 in Kingston, Jamaica and, with the approach of the mid-way point, the IAEA has asked Jamaica to host the mid-term coordination meeting of the Project.

7. Tourism Networks Policy and Strategy

Cabinet approved the draft Tourism Networks Policy and Strategy for tabling in Parliament as a Green Paper and use for further public consultations.

The main objective of Tourism Networks Policy and Strategy is improving Jamaica's global competitiveness, compliance, and quality assurance in tourism. The Networks envisaged are gastronomy, health and wellness, sports and entertainment, shopping, and knowledge.

8. Reports

(i) Cooperation Agreement Between the Government of Jamaica (through the National Water Commission) and the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with the execution of a Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Jamaica, through the National Water Commission (NWC), and the China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC) Americas Division for technical and economic feasibility studies and negotiations for the implementation of a proposed project for a water treatment plant, pipelines and associated works, subject to the outcome of a review by the Government of the findings of the studies.

The report advised that CHEC had submitted an unsolicited proposal for the construction of a water treatment plant and pipelines in Rio Bueno, Trelawny under a Public Private Partnership arrangement; and that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been developed, outlining general conditions for collaboration to identify technical matters and potential projects.

Information was provided on CHEC, the proposed Cooperation Agreement, the scope of the project and the financial considerations, and the consultations undertaken.

(ii) Update on Funding Arrangements for Infant, Primary, All Age and Junior High and Secondary Institutions for the 2017/2018 Academic Year

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the funding arrangements for Infant, Primary, All Age and Junior High schools and Secondary institutions for the 2017/2018 academic year.

The report advised of the implementation of a funding increase in September 2016; the bases for the allocation of funds to the secondary and primary school systems for the 2017/2018 school year and the funds identified; and the mechanisms for the disbursement of funds.

The report also outlined measures with respect to the treatment of a shortfall in funds at schools and circumstances under which major infrastructure works were needed; partnerships between the Ministry, the National Parent Teachers' Association, individual Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs), and Boards; partnerships between schools and their PTAs; the intention to abolish the term "Auxiliary Fees" and use instead "School Support Contributions"; and encouraging said "Contributions" from parents, whilst ensuring that no child would be disenfranchised.

The report highlighted an increase in the budgetary allocation per student from an average of \$850.00 to \$2,500.00, and provisions for additional support for books and incidentals for students.

(iii) Support for Students on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the allocation of approximately \$4.9 billion to provide support for students on the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) for the 2017/2018 school year.

The report advised that the Ministry would be expanding its offerings under the PATH for the 2017/2018 school year in relation to meals and provisions for transport, which would benefit PATH students at early childhood institutions, and at the primary and secondary levels, including sixth form.

The report gave details of the overall support to be provided to the students on PATH for lunch, books, insurance, identification cards, uniforms, and transport.

(iv) Western Regional Child and Adolescent Hospital

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Health in connection with the negotiation of an Implementation Agreement between the Ministry of Health, Jamaica and the Agency for International Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, in the context of the Agreement for Economic and Technical Cooperation signed by the two countries on 20 February 2015 that involved a grant of approximately US\$48 million for the establishment of the Western Regional Child and Adolescent Hospital to be situated at the Cornwall Regional Hospital in Montego Bay, St. James.

The report provided information on the bilateral agreement; the rationale for and scope of the project; the implementation agreement; the financial considerations; the consultations done; and the next steps, including those to be undertaken by the Ministry of Health.

The hospital will be the first in the region to have a dedicated adolescent medical service component; and it will also be different from the Bustamante Hospital for Children, which provides medical services only for children from birth up to 12 years old. The ground-breaking for the hospital was projected for March 2018.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.


Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
August 2017