

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 14 AUGUST 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 14 August 2017:

1. Contract;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Policy Development;
5. Joint Venture Agreement with Meridian Holdings Company Limited to Provide Housing Solutions at Cedar Grove, St. Catherine;
6. Authorisation to Deposit Jamaica's Instrument of Accession to the Ballast Water Management Convention; and
7. Hosting of the United Nations Environment Programme: Climate Technology Centre and Network (UNEP-CTCN) Regional Networking Meeting.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contract

Integrated Services Support Package for the Damen Offshore Patrol Vessels

Cabinet approved the payment of US\$1,377,200 from the 2017/2018 recurrent budget of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) to Damen Shipyards for the year one cost of the Integrated Services Support (ISS) Package for the offshore patrol vessels procured in 2016.

The earlier procurement of two new offshore patrol vessels from Damen Shipyards in 2016 did not include the funding of the ISS Package, as negotiations with the supplier were on-going. However, the ISS Package was critical to ensuring the reliability of the machinery and equipment on the vessels and guaranteeing maximum operational readiness and availability.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Development Bank of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (ii) Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company Limited for the Financial Year 2015/2016; and
- (iii) Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

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

3. Board Appointments

(i) Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Mrs. Jennifer Williams and Mrs. Paulette Lyons-Dodd to the Board of Directors, with effect from 14 August 2017 and up to 30 April 2018, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) National Parenting Support Commission

Cabinet gave approval for the following appointments to the Commission, with effect from 14 August 2017 and up to 29 May 2019, when the tenure of the Commission will expire:

- 1) Mrs. Marigold Harding – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Ann Marie Vaz – **Vice Chairman**;
- 3) Mrs. Ann Geddes-Nelson;
- 4) Miss Kaysia Kerr; and
- 5) Mrs. Karlene Deslandes.

(iii) Rural Agricultural Development Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Michael Stern as Chairman and the appointment of Dr. Lowell Dilworth as a member of the Authority, with effect from 14 August 2017 and up to 24 April 2019, when the tenure of the Authority will expire.

4. Policy Development

(i) Wildlife Trade Policy for Jamaica

Cabinet approved the development of a Wildlife Trade Policy for Jamaica.

The Policy will establish a framework to ensure that Jamaica's wildlife and their habitats are protected, as well as to institute a system to ensure the sustainable use and regulation of trade in wildlife, in the context of Jamaica having become a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1997.

(ii) Biosafety Policy for Jamaica

Cabinet approved the development of a National Biosafety Policy for Jamaica.

The proposed Policy will address gaps in Jamaica's legislative and regulatory framework in relation to genetically modified organisms (GMOs), whilst recognising the potential benefits of modern biotechnology. It aims to institute an enabling environment for the safe development, use and application of technology, whilst ensuring minimal risk to human health and biodiversity, and maximum benefit to science, agriculture and industry.

5. Joint Venture Agreement with Meridian Holdings Company Limited to Provide Housing Solutions at Cedar Grove, St. Catherine

Cabinet gave approval for the Minister of Housing to commence negotiations for a Joint Venture Agreement with Meridian Holdings Company Limited, consequent on the submission of an unsolicited proposal, to develop 125.5 hectares (310.12 acres) of land located at Cedar Grove, St. Catherine to provide 1,750 housing solutions.

The proposed development has been designed as a gated community with a mix of residential units of three-bedroom detached houses, two-bedroom detached houses, two-bedroom townhouses and condominiums/studios.

6. Authorisation to Deposit Jamaica's Instrument of Accession to the Ballast Water Management Convention

Cabinet gave authorization for Jamaica to deposit its Instrument of Accession to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004, prior to the promulgation of the incorporating legislation.

Jamaica is desirous of becoming a party to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, which was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2004 to provide a global legal framework for the regulation and management of the ballast water of ships and the sediments that remain in the tanks of vessels after the ballast water is discharged.

7. Hosting of the United Nations Environment Programme: Climate Technology Centre and Network (UNEP-CTCN) Regional Networking Meeting

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host the United Nations Environment Programme – Climate Technology Centre and Network (UNEP-CTCN) Regional Networking Meeting for National Designated Entities (NDEs) of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDs) from 24 to 25 August 2017 in Kingston.

The main objective of this regional meeting is to develop and strengthen the networking capacities of NDEs and their relationship with key financial institutions and the UNEP-CTCN.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister

29 September 2017

