

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 4 SEPTEMBER 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 4 September 2017:

1. Rationalization Plan for Public Bodies;
2. Government of Jamaica Medium-Term Strategic Priorities for FY 2018/2019 to FY 2020/2021;
3. Approval of the Revised National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme;
4. Hosting of the IV Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) in 2019; and
5. 47<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held in Cancun, Mexico, 19-21 June 2017.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. The Rationalization Plan for Public Bodies

Cabinet approved the consolidated Rationalization Plan, which included the time-bound plan for the reintegration/integration of eligible Public Bodies into Central Government, as well as mergers and closures consistent with the public financial management principles of the policy on public bodies and the rationalization of certain Public Bodies in the first phase of the Public Sector Transformation Action Plan.

Under this time-bound Rationalization Plan, select Public Bodies will be rationalized in one of the following ways:

- 1) Re-integration/integration into Central Government as Divisions, Departments, etc. within Ministries;
- 2) Mergers with other Public Bodies where synergies of resources and functions have been identified; or
- 3) Closures where deemed appropriate.

Based on the schedule presented as a part of this Rationalization Plan, these rationalization efforts would have commenced as early as the second quarter of Financial Year 2017/2018 with the latest completion date scheduled for the fourth quarter of Financial Year 2019/2020.

2. Government of Jamaica Medium-Term Strategic Priorities for FY 2018/2019 to FY 2020/2021

Cabinet approved the following as the Government of Jamaica Medium-Term Strategic Priorities for the three-year period 2018/2019 to 2020/2021:

1. Rule of Law and Timely Justice Outcomes;
2. Inclusive Sustainable Economic Growth and Job Creation;
3. Debt Reduction, Macro-economic Stability, and Fiscal Prudence;
4. Human Capital Development; and
5. Social Protection.

These strategic priorities will provide the focus and direction for the planning and budget processes in Ministries, Departments and Agencies across the Government of Jamaica.

3. Approval of the Revised National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme  
Cabinet approved the revised National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme as a White Paper for tabling in Parliament as the new policy and programme framework for poverty reduction.

The National Policy on Poverty and the National Poverty Reduction Programme provide a focussed and targeted approach to implementing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating national poverty reduction programmes and interventions. The Policy and Programme emanate from, and build on, what is articulated in *Vision 2020 Jamaica – National Development Plan*, *The Social Protection Strategy* and other relevant policies.

4. Hosting of the IV Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) in 2019

Cabinet approved Jamaica's hosting of the IV Ministerial Meeting of the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) in 2019.

The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas is a flexible mechanism for hemispheric cooperation resulting from the Fifth Summit of the Americas held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. The Mission of the ECPA is to promote regional energy cooperation through different strategies to achieve cleaner, safer, efficient, modern and fair energy deployment.

5. 47<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS): Cancun, Mexico During the Period 19-21 June 2017

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade about the 47<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) held in Cancun, Mexico during the period 19 to 21 June 2017.

The report outlined the main issues considered at the General Assembly and the bilateral meetings held, notably, Venezuela, human rights and democracy, hemispheric security, South-South Cooperation, and bilateral cooperation opportunities.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister  
5 October 2017