

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 2 OCTOBER 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 2 October 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Public Sector Transformation and Modernization: Proposal to Institute Clear Rules for Hiring, Promotion and Exit;
5. Government of Jamaica Employee Performance Management Policy;
6. Transfer of the Street Lighting Infrastructure Owned by the Government of Jamaica and Managed by the National Works Agency (NWA) to the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS);
7. Hosting of Jamaica's Geographic Information System (GIS) User Conference: 10-11 October 2017 in Kingston; and
8. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

- (i) Provision of Consulting Services for the China Aided Western Children's Hospital at the Cornwall Regional Hospital, Montego Bay, St. James

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$60,420,225.00 to Patrick A. O. Stanigar, Architect, for the provision of consulting services during the pre-construction and post-construction stages of the implementation of the China Aided Western Children's Hospital Project for a contract period of 30 months.

Cabinet had previously noted the plans for the construction of a Children's Hospital to serve Western Jamaica. Under the Project, the Government of Jamaica is required to undertake site preparation and engage a local consulting firm to provide design review services and approve the construction designs for the hospital.

- (ii) Jamaica Survey of Establishments (JSE)

Cabinet approved the award of contract in the amount of \$64,341,776.00 to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica to conduct a survey of business establishments in Jamaica.

One of the main aims of the survey is to provide comprehensive and reliable baseline data on Jamaican business establishments that will constitute the basis on which subsequent selective surveys can be developed, focusing on specific business development activities related to competitiveness and growth.

(iii) Variation to Contract for the Soursop Turn to Chapleton Rehabilitation Works, Clarendon OFID/GOJ Rural Roads Rehabilitation Project, Phase II

Cabinet approved the variation in the sum of \$324,605,584.62 to the contract awarded to the Asphaltic Concrete/General Paving OFID Joint Venture for the Soursop Turn to Chapleton Rehabilitation Works.

The variation has become necessary due primarily to changes to the scope of works because of additional requirements that included redesign of the works, earthworks, replacement of National Water Commission (NWC) pipelines, relocation of structures, compensation for destruction of fruit trees and crops, and construction of a box culvert.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP) for the Financial Year 2010/2011; and
- (ii) Rural Agricultural Development Agency for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

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

3. Legislation

The Data Protection Act, 2017

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Data Protection Act, 2017" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to implement a co-regulatory regime for the protection of the privacy of individuals with respect to personal data and the regulation of the collection, processing, keeping, use and disclosure of certain information relating to individuals.

4. Public Sector Transformation and Modernization: Proposal to Institute Clear Rules for Hiring, Promotion and Exit

Cabinet approved proposals for the development of clear rules for hiring, promotion and exit in the public sector.

This proposal forms a part of the Government's commitment under the Public Sector Transformation and Modernization Programme and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Arrangement to establish a more transparent rules-based framework for employment.

5. Government of Jamaica Employee Performance Management Policy

Cabinet approved the development of the Employee Performance Management Policy for the Public Sector, which would:

- (i) standardize the approach to employee performance management across the public sector by mandating all heads of public sector entities to implement an employee performance management system within their organizations by 1 April 2019;

- (ii) require the Office of the Cabinet to publish, by 31 March 2018, Minimum Standards against which all public sector entities would be required to assess their current performance management systems and, where they do not exist, design new systems; and
- (iii) link aspects of compensation to performance by requiring the payment of increments to all public servants payable only on the achievement of the established minimum performance score with effect from 1 April 2019.

The Employee Performance Management Policy is intended to address the following three specific and interrelated issues:

1. the need to adopt a new performance culture across the public sector that supports the achievement of public sector transformation and modernization objectives;
2. the need to more closely link compensation to performance; and
3. the need for consistency in the application of good practices in employee performance management across the public sector.

6. Transfer of the Street Lighting Infrastructure Owned by the Government of Jamaica and Managed by the National Works Agency (NWA) to the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS)

Cabinet gave approval for the Government of Jamaica (GOJ), through the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation and the National Works Agency, to enter into an agreement with the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited for the transfer thereto of street lighting infrastructure owned by the Government and managed by the Agency.

The street lighting infrastructure owned by the GOJ has fallen into a state of disrepair in the absence of an appropriate maintenance regime. As a result, it is being proposed that this infrastructure be transferred to the JPS as it is adequately equipped and financed to operate this infrastructure.

7. Hosting of Jamaica's Geographic Information System (GIS) User Conference: 10-11 October 2017 in Kingston

Cabinet approved the hosting, by Jamaica, of a Geographic Information System (GIS) User Conference in Kingston on 10 to 11 October 2017 under the theme "Geospatial Technologies – Mapping Our Way to Secure Communities."

The event will highlight the use of geographic and other information by government to measure and monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the importance of improved availability and accessibility of geographic data.

8. Reports

(i) The Caribbean Maritime University – Council Members and Charter Day

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Transport and Mining in connection with transition activities for the Caribbean Maritime University.

The report advised of the establishment of the Caribbean Maritime Institute under the Caribbean Maritime Institute Act, 1993; the repeal of the Act and the promulgation of legislation to establish and incorporate a university to be called the Caribbean Maritime University to advance education, training and research in maritime studies; and the Governor-General's assent given

to the Caribbean Maritime University Act, 2017 in May 2017, which would come into operation on a date to be notified by the responsible Minister.

The Note informed of the identification of the date of 28 September 2017 as the appointed day, or Charter Day, for the Act to come into operation; provisions in the Act for the composition and appointment of the Council; and the intention for members of the existing Board of the Caribbean Maritime Institute to transition as members of the Council of the University, until the establishment of the full complement of the Council as provided for under the Act.

(ii) Update on the Progress of Restorative Works Due to the Disruption of Air Traffic Services Within Jamaica's Airspace as a Result of a Lightning Strike

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Transport and Mining, which provided further information on the restorative work occasioned by a lightning strike at the Kingston Air Traffic Control Centre (KATCC) at the headquarters of the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority (JCAA) on Friday, 8 September 2017 that disrupted air traffic services within Jamaica's airspace.

The report advised of the progress of the procurement exercise for equipment and services for the restoration work, and ongoing consultations to expedite the exercise; the financial considerations; the restoration of twenty-four hour service as of 19 September 2017; and the progress of the decommissioning of the legacy system and the full commissioning of the new TopSky automation system.

(iii) US Strategy for Engagement with the Caribbean

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in connection with the US Strategy for Engagement with the Caribbean and the US/Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016.

The report advised that the Act called for the formulation of a multi-year Strategy on issues of interest to the Caribbean. The Strategy was formulated by the US State Department and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in consultation with Caribbean diplomatic representatives in Washington and was issued on 21 June 2017. The Strategy addressed priority issues of security, energy, diplomacy, health, education, and prosperity. The report also informed that the Act and Strategy provided an opportunity to strengthen relations with the United States of America (USA), which was an important trade and development partner for Jamaica and the principal trading partner of all CARICOM Member States.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

30 November 2017