

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 23 OCTOBER 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 23 October 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Report;
4. Board Appointments;
5. The Foreign Trade Policy of Jamaica and Action Plan;
6. The Merger of the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR); and
7. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Expansion of the Spectrum Management Authority's Radio Monitoring and Direction-Finding System

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to TCI International Inc., in the amount of US\$769,752.00 plus customs duties, General Consumption Tax and other local charges, for the upgrade and expansion of the Spectrum Management Authority's Radio Monitoring and Direction-Finding System (RMDFS).

The contract is aimed at improving the entity's RMDFS system through the development of new sites in Portland and St. Elizabeth, and upgrading the sites in New Hope, St. Ann and Albion, St. James.

(ii) Supply of Clinical Chemistry Systems for General Chemistry and Immunochemistry

Cabinet approved the award of two contracts for the supply of clinical chemistry systems for general chemical and immunochemistry as under:

- (a) in the amount of US\$1,895,333.62 to Facey Commodity Company Limited for the Cornwall Regional Hospital, for a period of three (3) years; and
- (b) in the amount of US\$781,658.50 to Lasco Distributors Limited for the Western Regional Health Authority (Savanna-La-Mar, Falmouth and Noel Holmes Hospitals) for a period of three (3) years.

Chemical reagents are used to conduct of a range of screening and diagnostic testing. The provision of an uninterrupted supply of chemistry reagents is of critical importance for sustaining optimal diagnostic and screening services.

(iii) Supply of Reagents and Consumables for Performing Screening Tests for Infectious Disease Markers to the National Public Health Laboratory

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$985,594.33 to Facey Commodity Limited for the supply of reagents and consumables along with the provision of three analyzers for performing screening tests for infectious disease markers, for the Immunology Unit within the National Public Health Laboratory, for a period of three (3) years.

The Immunology Unit at the National Public Health Laboratory, in the execution of its mandate to provide national laboratory testing services, requires the use of machines and supplies of reagents and consumables to conduct its testing procedures.

(iv) Procurement of Works for the Integrated Community Development Projects

Cabinet approved the award of two contracts to Contraxx Enterprises Limited for the implementation of rehabilitative works as follows:

- (a) in the amount of \$99,872,330.00 for the Hannah Town Integrated Infrastructure Project, Kingston; and
- (b) in the amount of \$112,561,705.60 for the Tivoli Gardens Integrated Infrastructure Project, Kingston.

These projects form a part of the US\$42 million Integrated Community Development Projects (ICDP) loan agreement signed between the Government of Jamaica, through the Jamaica Social Investment Fund, and the World Bank for which eighteen (18) communities have been chosen to benefit from interventions focussing on access to basic infrastructure and social services.

(v) Procurement of Works for Design & Build Services, Mineral Heights Primary School Expansion, Clarendon

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$84,257,623.00 to Ashtrom Building Systems Limited to carry out design and build services under the Mineral Heights Primary School Expansion Project, Clarendon.

These works have become necessary as the existing infrastructure at the Mineral Heights Primary School is inadequate to properly serve the students and staff, is overcrowded, has insufficient sanitation facilities and limited access for persons with disabilities.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered Annual Reports of the:

- (i) All-Island Jamaica Cane Farmers' Association for the year ended September 2016; and
- (ii) University of Technology for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

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

3. Legislation

The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Act, 2017

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled “The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Act, 2017” to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Special Economic Zones Act to reflect the change in portfolio responsibility for Special Economic Zones, by removing the reference to the Minister with responsibility for industry.

4. Board Appointments

(i) Development Bank of Jamaica Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Paul B. Scott as Chairman of the Board of Directors with effect from 20 October 2017 and up to 19 June 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) Jamaica Veterinary Board

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Nigel Elliot to the Board, with effect from 23 October 2017 and up to 15 May 2019 when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(iii) Port Authority of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Velma Ricketts-Walker as a member of the Authority, with effect from 23 October 2017 and up to 19 June 2019, when the tenure of the Authority will expire.

(iv) Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN)

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 23 October 2017 to 22 October 2020:

- 1) Professor Alvin Wint – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Carol Coy;
- 3) Mr. Trevor Anderson;
- 4) Mr. Robert Stennett;
- 5) Mr. James Stewart;
- 6) Ms. Kerry-Ann Spencer; and
- 7) Mr. Colin Williams.

5. The Foreign Trade Policy of Jamaica and Action Plan

Cabinet approved the tabling of the revised Foreign Trade Policy and Action Plan in Parliament as a White Paper.

The objectives of the Foreign Trade Policy are to firmly place foreign trade as a national priority, promote the mainstreaming of foreign trade via a “whole-of-government” approach, and recognize and promote the pivotal role of the private sector and public/private collaboration in foreign trade.

6. Merger of the Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children's Registry

Cabinet approved the:

- (i) implementation of Phase 1 of the merger of the Child Development Agency (CDA) and the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR), in which the Office of the Children's Registry would be subsumed under the operations of the Child Development Agency; and
- (ii) issuance of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel for amendments to the Executive Agencies Act to formally change the name of the Child Development Agency to the Child Protection and Family Services Agency under Phase 2 of the merger.

This merger is in keeping with the Public Sector Transformation Action Plan and is intended to bring about better and more streamlined child protection services in Jamaica. The merger will take place over two phases. Phase 1 will entail the subsuming of the OCR into the CDA; and Phase 2 will entail the full roll out of a new divisional structure for the Child Protection and Family Services Agency.

7. Reports

- (i) Appointment of the Minister of Transport and Mining to the Board of Directors of the International Road Federation (IRF)

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Transport and Mining regarding the appointment of the Minister of Transport and Mining to the Board of Directors of the International Road Federation (IRF) for the period January 2017 to January 2019, further to a unanimous vote at the 69th Board of Directors Meeting in January 2017.

The report advised that the IRF was a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization with the mission of encouraging and promoting the development and maintenance of better, safer and more sustainable roads and road networks. It further advised that the IRF serviced a network of private and public sector members in more than 70 countries by providing world-class knowledge resources, advocacy services and continuing education services that together offered a global marketplace for best practices and industry solutions; and that the Board of Directors had a pivotal role in guiding the IRF in the delivery of those resources and services. The report informed that it was the first time that Jamaica was being represented on the Board, and outlined the benefits of membership for Jamaica.

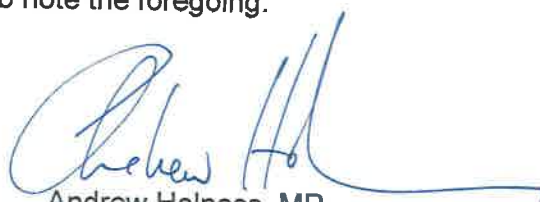
- (ii) Proposed Designation of the Blue Lagoon in Portland as a National Monument

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in relation to the plan by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) to designate the Blue Lagoon in Portland as a Protected National Heritage.

The Note informed of the authority of the JNHT, based on the Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act, to so designate a site; the bases for such a designation, which involved cultural, aesthetic and scientific value; the value of the Blue Lagoon in that regard and to Jamaica's heritage and tourism product; previous attempts to protect

the Blue Lagoon between 1960 and 2011; the legislative and institutional framework; the extensive public and private sector consultations undertaken; the proposed governance framework; and the actions to be completed towards designating the Blue Lagoon as a Protected National Heritage.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Holness', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

10 January 2018

