

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES - 6 NOVEMBER 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 6 November 2017:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons;
6. West Kingston Incursion Compensation Committee;
7. Increase in the Constituency Office Expenses Provision Payable to Members of Parliament and the Establishment of an Office of the Member of Parliament;
8. International Monetary Fund 2017 High Level Caribbean Forum in Kingston, Jamaica; and
9. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Provision of Claims Adjudication Services by the Advanced Integrated Systems Limited to the National Health Fund

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$433,743,689.70 to Advanced Integrated Systems Limited for the provision of claims adjudication services for the National Health Fund (NHF), for a period of three (3) years.

The contractor is required to provide Claims Adjudication Services to the NHF for its Individual Benefits Programme, which uses an electronic platform to deliver the benefit to persons who have been registered to the programmes offered through the NHF Card and the Jamaica Drugs for the Elderly Programme (JADEP), for a period of three years.

(ii) Variation of Award of Contract for the Supply of Clinical Chemistry Systems for General Chemistry and Immunochemistry to the Western Regional Health Authority

Cabinet approved a variation in the amount of US\$236,658.25 to the contract awarded to Facey Commodity Company Limited for the supply of clinical chemistry systems for general chemistry and immunochemistry to the Western Regional Health Authority - Cornwall Regional Hospital.

The Western Regional Health Authority utilizes chemistry reagents in the conducting of a range of screening and diagnostic testing in the delivery of services at its health facilities.

(iii) Supply of Liquefied Gases to the University of Hospital of the West Indies

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$390,559,141.28 to Industrial Gases Limited for the supply of liquefied gases to the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) is necessary to operate the new LPG boilers efficiently, to reduce the Hospital's fuel cost by 45% of the normal costing while using Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO).

(iv) Housing and Infrastructure Works at Longville Park Housing Development Phase 3A, Clarendon

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$161,576,503.38 to Ashtröm Building Systems Limited for Housing and Infrastructure works at Longville Park Housing Development Phase 3A, Clarendon.

Longville Park Phase 3A is situated within Longville Park Phase 3 on 1.1 hectares of land and will consist of 19 duplex studio units on developed serviced lots.

2. Legislation

The Road Maintenance Fund (Repeal) Act, 2017

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Road Maintenance Fund (Repeal) Act, 2017" to be tabled in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to repeal the Road Maintenance Fund Act, transfer the functions of the Fund to the Minister responsible for works; amend Section 15(3) of the Road Traffic Act that provides for the payment to the Fund of 33⅓ of licence duties on motor vehicles; to remove references to the Fund from the latter Act; and effect consequential amendments to other legislation.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Jamaica Agricultural Society for the Financial Years 2015/2016 and 2016/2017;
- (ii) Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority for the Financial Year 2016/2017;
- (iii) Jamaica Library Service for the Financial Year 2013/2014;
- (iv) Management Institute for National Development for the Financial Year 2012/2013; and
- (v) Spectrum Management Authority for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

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

4. Board Appointments

(i) Central Wastewater Treatment Company Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Arlene Williams to the Board, with effect from 6 November 2017 to 24 July 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Audrey Deer-Williams to the Council, with effect from 6 November 2017 and up to 30 June 2018, when the tenure of the Council will expire.

(iii) Strata Appeals Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of Ms. Gail English to the Tribunal, with effect from 6 November 2017 and up to 24 April 2018, when the tenure of the Tribunal will expire.

5. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Cabinet noted the outcome of the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Document to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons Leading Towards Their Total Elimination, including the adopted Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; and approved the signature by Jamaica of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, with a view to ratifying the Instrument once the necessary domestic legislation was in place.

On 23 December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 71/258 which called for the convening of a United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons leading towards their total elimination in 2017. The Conference was held in two sessions in March 2017 and June to July 2017, respectively, and culminated with the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons for which Jamaica voted in favour.

6. West Kingston Incursion Compensation Committee

Cabinet approved the payment of the compensation for the various categories of claims as per the recommendations of the Committee

The Compensation Committee was established by Cabinet to review claims for personal injuries, loss and damages sustained by persons affected by the West Kingston Incursion of May 2010.

7. Increase in the Constituency Office Expenses Provision Payable to Members of Parliament and the Establishment of an Office of the Member of Parliament

Cabinet approved:

- (i) an increase in the provision to Members of Parliament for Constituency Office Expenses from \$80,000.00 to \$250,000.00 per month, retroactive to April 2017; and
- (ii) the establishment of an Office of the Member of Parliament in each constituency.

The rationale for the proposed increase includes the inadequacy of the provision and the fact that the last increase was effected in April 2008. This was supported by an analysis of the monthly operational costs for a constituency office, which revealed costs ranging from \$225,000.00 to \$380,000.00.

The establishment of a generic Office of the Member of Parliament in each constituency is expected to promote transparency, fairness and accountability in constituency representation.

8. International Monetary Fund 2017 High Level Caribbean Forum in Kingston, Jamaica

Cabinet approved Jamaica's hosting of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) 2017 High Level Caribbean Forum and associated events, under the theme "Unleashing Growth and Strengthening Resilience in the Caribbean" in Kingston from 15 to 17 November 2017.

The focus of the conference will be on the unique issues facing the Caribbean region and the opportunities that can be found to cope with the challenging landscape. The topics to be discussed include crime and youth unemployment; fiscal policy and political cycles; and financial stability and growth trade-offs.

9. Reports

(i) Status of Submission of Annual Reports by Government Entities as at 30 September 2017

Cabinet considered a report from the Cabinet Office regarding the status of the submission of annual reports by Government entities to Parliament for the financial year 2016/2017, as at 30 September 2017.

The report informed of the requirement under the Public Bodies Management and Accountability (PBMA) Act, for public bodies to submit audited annual reports to portfolio Ministers and the Parliament. Information was provided with respect to the submission of annual reports for the 2016/2017 financial year, including that only 1% of the 165 public bodies was current, whilst 29% and 45% were one year and two to four years outstanding, respectively, as at 30 September 2017.

A copy of the report has been posted on the website of the Cabinet Office.

(ii) Sub-Regional Workshop on Law and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) for Caribbean Countries

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Health regarding Jamaica hosting the Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) four-day Sub-Regional Workshop on Law and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) for Caribbean Countries in Kingston during the period 24 to 27 October 2017.

The report indicated that the focus of the workshop was to bring together the relevant stakeholders to focus on regulatory options to address tobacco use, alcohol consumption, unhealthy diets and obesity. The report also indicated that the training was funded by the PAHO/WHO and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

(iii) Workshop on Capacity Building for the National Rapid Response Team – Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Health regarding a two-day workshop on Capacity Building for the National Response Team, pertaining to infection, prevention and control practices and the use of personal protective equipment, which was hosted in Jamaica on 30 and 31 October 2017 by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) through a cooperative agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The aim of the workshop was to promote the proper selection and appropriate use of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) under the various public health scenarios.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.


Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
10 January 2018

