

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 12 JANUARY 2018

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 12 January 2018:

1. Legislation;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Acquisition of Lands at Montpelier, St. James for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF);
5. Revision of the National Transport Policy, 2007;
6. Hosting of the Caribbean Government Science Advice Workshop 20-21 February 2018; and
7. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Legislation

- (i) The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act, 2018

- (ii) The Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Act, 2018

Cabinet approved the Bills entitled “The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) (Amendment) Act, 2018” and “The Child Care and Protection (Amendment) Act, 2018” for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bills seek to implement measures for offences under the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act to be triable by a judge in the Supreme Court in the absence of a jury, for certain offences under the Child Care and Protection Act to be triable by a judge alone in the absence of a jury, and for an increase in the penalty for the offence of the sale or trafficking of children.

- (iii) The Child Diversion Act, 2018

Cabinet approved the Bill entitled “The Child Diversion Act, 2018” for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to enable the implementation of child diversion measures to be undertaken when dealing with children who come into contact with the law.

- (iv) The Telecommunications (Spectrum Regulatory Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2018

Cabinet approved the Bill entitled “The Telecommunications (Spectrum Regulatory Fees) (Validation and Indemnity) Act, 2018” for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to validate and confirm as lawful, the imposition, calculation and collection of spectrum regulatory fees from 1 April 2004 to 22 March 2017 that were imposed without proper lawful authority and therefore required validation and indemnification of the Government and officials from liability in relation thereto.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Jamaica Mortgage Bank for the Financial Year 2016/2017;
- (ii) National Housing Trust for the Financial Year 2015/2016; and
- (iii) Public Accountancy Board for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

3. Board Appointments

(i) Kingston Free Zone Company Limited

Cabinet gave approval for a change in the effective date of the appointment of the Board of Directors, so that the tenure of the Board would be for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 26 May 2017 to 25 May 2020.

(ii) Water Resources Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Allison Rangolan to the Authority with effect from 12 January 2018, and up to 29 May 2019 when the tenure of the Authority will expire.

4. Acquisition of Lands at Montpelier, St. James for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF)

Cabinet gave approval for the acquisition from the Development Bank of Jamaica of the following lands valued at \$165.0 million for the expansion of the national security infrastructure:

- (i) all those parcels of lands, part of Montpelier Estate in the parish of St. James containing by survey twenty-eight acres twenty-five perches and one-tenth of a perch of the shape and dimensions and butting and being all the land comprised in the Certificate of Title registered at Volume 1202 Folio 431 and valued at \$87.5 million; and
- (ii) all that parcel of land, part of Montpelier, Montpelier Estate of Penn in the parish of St. James, being part of the portion shown as Section One on the plan of part of Montpelier aforesaid deposited in the Office of Titles on 17 February 2009 totalling 300,102.531 square metres and being part of the land comprised in Certificate of Title registered at Volume 1433 Folio 215 and valued at \$73 million; and

Cabinet also approved the payment by the Ministry of National Security of \$1.25 million, representing half of the cost associated with security and maintenance for the properties.

The security forces require a larger, dedicated base in the western region to more strategically and adequately carry out their operations.

5. Revision of the National Transport Policy, 2007

Cabinet approved the revision of the 2007 National Transport Policy and the development of the accompanying National Transport Strategy and National Transport Plan.

The current Policy was implemented by the Government of Jamaica with a view to improving and managing the various modes of transportation, that is, air, land (road, rail, public transport) and maritime infrastructure and services, whilst ensuring a safe, efficient, secure and sustainable transport system. Given the time that has elapsed, the revision of the Policy had become necessary.

6. Hosting of the Caribbean Government Science Advice Workshop, 20-21 February 2018

Cabinet approved the hosting of the Caribbean Government Science Advice Workshop by the National Commission on Science and Technology (NCST), in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI), the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) and the Royal Society of London (RSL) in Kingston, during the period 20 to 21 February 2018.

The workshop will bring together 40 emerging and established scientists and policy practitioners and key stakeholders from the Commonwealth Caribbean for a dialogue on models of science advice to government.

7. Reports

(i) 2nd Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant – 2017

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with a Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant of US \$582,000.00 to Jamaica from the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

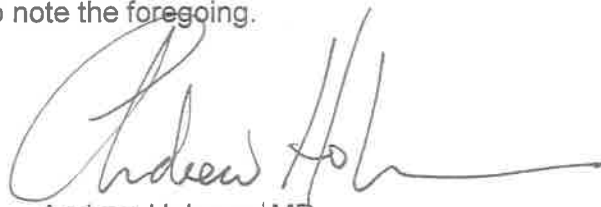
The report advised that the Readiness Grant would support the development of projects/programmes to investigate the barriers to private sector investment in climate change adaptation initiatives; support the accreditation of selected private sector entities in the region; inform the best strategy for investment at the regional and country levels; and promote south-south cooperation among other CARICOM states. It further advised that the Grant would complement the first GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant of US\$300,000.00 that Jamaica had received.

(ii) The Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Smart Healthcare Facilities Project

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Health in connection with the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) Smart Healthcare Facilities Project in Jamaica.

The report advised of the objective of the Project to make health facilities safer, greener and more resilient to natural disasters; the implementation framework; sponsorship by international partners; the selection of sixteen hospitals and health centres in seven Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, to benefit from the Project; the methodology of assessment for retrofitting of healthcare facilities in Jamaica; the facilities selected for retrofitting; the expected benefits; the implementation time-line; and funding for the project.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

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

Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
29 March 2018