

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 19 FEBRUARY 2018

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 19 February 2018:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointment;
5. Revised National Policy for Senior Citizens, 2017;
6. Revision of the National Housing Trust's Loan Interest Rates and Provision of Home Grants;
7. Special Benefit Order – Nashville Housing Development Phases I and II, St. Mary;
8. Bellevue Hospital Laundry Services Programme;
9. Hosting of Meetings/Workshops; and
10. Performance Audit of the Government's Preparedness for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

- (i) Construction of an Administrative Building at the Reynolds Pier, Ocho Rios, St. Ann  
Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$119,500,158.28 to N.F. Barnes Construction & Equipment Company Limited for the construction of an administrative building at the Reynolds Pier, Ocho Rios, St. Ann.

The Reynolds Pier is being upgraded to ensure that the next generation of cruise ships can call on the port, as well as to improve the cruise passenger experience in Ocho Rios, St. Ann.

(ii) Procurement of Works for Integrated Infrastructure Projects

Cabinet approved the award of the following contracts on behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund:

- (a) in the amount of \$114,010,156.00 to Chin's Equipment Rental & Construction Company Limited to carry out rehabilitative works under the York Town Integrated Infrastructure Project, Clarendon;
- (b) in the amount of \$99,854,498.00 to Stone Plus Limited to carry out rehabilitative works under the Wilton Gardens/Rema Integrated Infrastructure Project, St. Andrew; and
- (c) in the amount of \$120,397,327.30 to Stone Plus Limited to carry out rehabilitative works under the Maxfield Park Integrated Infrastructure Project, St. Andrew.

The Integrated Community Development Projects are geared towards promoting public safety and community transformation through access to, and improvement of, basic infrastructure and social services.

(iii) Procurement of Surgical Sutures through the National Health Fund

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$4,821,399.20 to A.A. Laquis (Trinidad) Limited for the provision of surgical sutures to Government-owned health facilities, through the National Health Fund, for a period of thirty-six (36) months.

The National Health Fund is responsible for the procurement, warehousing and distribution of medical supplies in relation to public hospitals, inclusive of surgical sutures.

(iv) Preparation of Seven Technical Papers for the National Spatial Plan for Jamaica

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$872,041.00 to Acclimatise LAC Limited (United Kingdom) for the preparation of seven technical papers for a new National Spatial Plan for Jamaica.

The objective of the consultancy is to provide technical input into the National Spatial Plan which is intended to provide the spatial framework for guiding orderly and progressive development in Jamaica.

(v) The Ferris Cross to Mackfield Road Improvement Project in the Parishes of Hanover and Westmoreland under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP)

Cabinet approved of a contract amount of US\$24,983,130.10, which was negotiated with representatives from China Harbour Engineering Company Limited, for works to be carried out as part of the Ferris Cross to Mackfield Road Improvement Project in the parishes of Hanover and Westmoreland.

The project forms a part of the Major Infrastructure Development Programme, which was entered into in January 2013 via a contract signed between the then Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing and China Harbour Engineering Company Limited.

(vi) The Hagley Park Road Improvement Project in the Parish of St. Andrew Under the Major Infrastructure Development Programme (MIDP)

Cabinet approved a contract amount of US\$56,496,758.16, which was negotiated with representatives from China Harbour Engineering Company Limited, for works to be carried out as part of the Hagley Park Road Improvement Project in the parish of St. Andrew.

The project forms a part of the Major Infrastructure Development Programme, which was entered into in January 2013 via a contract signed between the then Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing and China Harbour Engineering Company Limited.

2. Legislation

The Fisheries Act, 2018

Cabinet approved the Bill entitled "The Fisheries Act, 2018" for tabling in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to repeal the Fishing Industry Act, 1975, and make new provisions relating to the regulation of the fishing and aquaculture industries.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Electoral Commission of Jamaica (ECJ) for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (ii) Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC) for the Financial Year 2016/2017; and
- (iii) National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) for the Financial Years 2006/2007, 2007/2008, 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

4. Board Appointment

Development Bank of Jamaica Limited (DBJ)

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of Ms. Carlene O'Connor to the Board of Directors with effect from 19 February 2018, and up to 19 June 2019 when the tenure of the Board will expire.

5. Revised National Policy for Senior Citizens, 2017

Cabinet approved the tabling of the draft National Policy for Senior Citizens in Parliament as a Green Paper.

The draft Policy seeks to provide the policy and institutional framework to strengthen social protection for the segment of the population over 60 years old, which is currently the fastest growing age cohort in the country. The key thematic areas of the draft National Policy for Senior Citizens are: Social Engagement and Participation; Social Protection, Income Security and Employment; Health and Wellness; Physical Environments, Protection and Safety; Family Integration and Intergenerational Transfers; and Governance and Capacity Building.

6. Revision of the National Housing Trust's Loan Interest Rates and Provision of Home Grants

Cabinet approved the decision of the National Housing Trust (NHT) to revise the loan interest rates and provide a subsidy/home grant not exceeding \$1.5 million, to facilitate ease of home ownership for contributors to the Trust.

The unaffordability of housing to many contributors has necessitated the changes with respect to interest rates. In addition, despite the changes to interest rates, persons at or near the minimum wage would still not be able to afford mortgages. Therefore, the NHT

Board also decided to amend and formalize the Home Grants Programme (which has been in operation informally since July 2010 by policy directive), through the promulgation of Regulations that will provide for the qualifying income band, a cap on the amount accessible and the period within which contributors may be eligible for a subsidy/home grant.

7. Special Benefit Order – Nashville Housing Development Phases I and II, St. Mary

Cabinet gave approval for the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order, effective 21 July 2013, to facilitate the allocation of twenty-one housing solutions at the Nashville Housing Development Phases I and II in St. Mary, to contributors of the National Housing Trust who meet the specified criteria.

The purpose of the allocation of housing benefits by way of a Special Benefit Order for the Nashville Housing Development is to facilitate specific groups of contributors being able to own their own homes.

8. Bellevue Hospital Laundry Services Programme

Cabinet approved the development and implementation of the Bellevue Hospital Laundry Services Programme.

The Bellevue Hospital Laundry Services Programme involves the establishment of an efficient and cost-effective laundry service to benefit the health facilities in the South East Regional Health Authority region, using the Bellevue Hospital facilities, in an initiative that combines occupational therapy with revenue generation and cost-reduction activities.

9. Hosting of Meetings/Workshops

(i) The Marine Genetic Resources/Ocean Governance Workshop

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host the Marine Genetic Resources (MGRs)/Ocean Governance Workshop in Kingston over the period 12 to 14 March 2018, in collaboration with the Government of Norway and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The workshop is aimed at increasing understanding of the complex issues to be considered in the upcoming negotiations of a new agreement on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, particularly as they relate to MGRs.

(ii) The Metal Bulletin 2018 Global Bauxite and Alumina Industry Conference

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica to host the 24<sup>th</sup> Metal Bulletin Annual International Conference on the bauxite and aluminium industry in Montego Bay, St. James over the period 28 February to 1 March 2018.

The objective of the annual Metal Bulletin is the provision of timely, accurate and inclusive information on the global metals and steel market.

10. Performance Audit of the Government's Preparedness for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Cabinet considered a report from the Cabinet Office in connection with a performance audit being undertaken by the Auditor General's Department of the Government's preparedness for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report recalled that Cabinet previously approved the SDGs Implementation Road Map for Jamaica and establishment of the National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee.

The report advised that the performance audit will seek to ascertain whether the Government has functional coordinating and institutional arrangements that allowed for proper oversight of the 2030 Agenda; prioritized and allocated requisite resources towards the major interventions to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs; engaged the relevant stakeholders and established mechanisms to raise awareness; established mechanisms to monitor and report on the progress of the goals; and previously established arrangements in respect of Vision 2030 that will aid or impede the preparedness for the implementation of the SDGs.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

  
Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister  
24 April 2018

