

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 16 JULY 2018

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 16 July 2018:

1. Contract;
2. Annual Report;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Jamaica's Hosting of the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Montego Bay, Jamaica;
5. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contract

Procurement and Distribution of Textbooks under the Primary Textbook Programme for 2018/2019

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,941,848.34 to Carlong Publishers (Caribbean) Limited, for the supply and distribution of primary textbooks for Grades 1-3 students across the country, under the 2018/2019 Primary Textbook Programme.

The selection was made in the context of the call for new textbooks that are in alignment with the new National Standards Curriculum (NSC). The Carlong Series, whilst not meeting the full NSC criteria, was deemed most suitable in the interim.

2. Annual Report

Cabinet considered the Annual Report for the Casino Gaming Commission for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

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

3. Board Appointments

(i) Consumer Protection Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of Professor Kent S. Pantry as Chairman of the Tribunal, with effect from 16 July 2018 to 27 May 2021, when the tenure of the Tribunal will expire.

(ii) Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Andre Jones to the Board, with effect from 16 July 2018 to 27 May 2020, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(iii) National Housing Trust

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Lennox Channer as Chairman and Mr. Jeffery Hall as a member of the Board, with effect from 16 July 2018 and up to 15 May 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(iv) Quarries Advisory Committee

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons for a period of one (1) year with effect 16 July 2018 to 15 July 2019:

- 1) Mr. Kevin Ingram – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Coy Roache;
- 3) Mr. Kent Gammon;
- 4) Ms. Mitsy Hudson;
- 5) Ms. Tosha Schwapp;
- 6) Ms. Gabrielle Hylton;
- 7) Mrs. Sagynych Haughton;
- 8) Mrs. Aisha Bedasse-Jureidini;
- 9) Mr. Roger Smith; and
- 10) Mr. Michael Wilson.

4. Jamaica's Hosting of the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Montego Bay, Jamaica

Cabinet ratified the Office of the Prime Minister's expenditure in the sum of \$131,698,809.38 in connection with Jamaica's hosting of the Thirty-Ninth Regular Meeting of the Conference Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) held in Montego Bay, St. James, from 4 to 6 July 2018.

The Conference of Heads of Government is the highest decision-making body within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Jamaica hosted this conference as Chair of CARICOM for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

5. Reports

(i) Update on the National Competitiveness Council

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with an update on the National Competitiveness Council.

The report advised that the Council was a public-private partnership body established in 2010, to advance policy advocacy, research and public awareness of reform initiatives that facilitate the creation of an enabling environment for businesses in Jamaica and was currently chaired by the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (Minister Vaz).

The report advised of the goal of the Council which was to get Jamaica into the top 10 ranking of the World Bank's Doing Business Report by 2020; the initiatives monitored and facilitated on the Council's Business Environment Reform Agenda; the key reforms implemented in Jamaica to date; the partnership entered into by the Council with the World Bank, specifically with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for advisory services, the output of which would be in the form of a Reform Memorandum; and the visit of the IFC to Jamaica to advance the initiative.

(ii) Government of Jamaica Priority Legislation for the 2018/2019 Legislative Year

Cabinet considered a report from the Cabinet Office in connection with the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) priority legislation for the 2018/2019 legislative year.

The report advised that at the commencement of each legislative year the Cabinet Office compiled the GOJ's priority legislation programme, which would guide stakeholders' legislative priorities for the year; and by way of memorandum from the Cabinet Secretary, all Ministries were requested to indicate their top three legislative items for 2018/2019.

(iii) Official Visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to the Kingdom of Spain, 17-18 May 2018

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in connection with a report on the outcomes of the official visit by a delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to the Kingdom of Spain during the period 17 to 18 May 2018.

The report outlined the aims of the visit which were to strengthen relations with Spain; the substance and outcomes of the meetings attended by the Minister, including the bilateral engagement and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Jamaica and Spain on Political Consultations; the visit to the Cervantes Institute and discussions held pertaining to the Institute's assistance with the development of Spanish language education in Jamaica, and the possibility of establishing an institute in Jamaica; and the meeting with the owners of Spanish hotels based in Jamaica to share ideas for advancing business relations, whilst addressing concerns raised such as security, customs procedures, labour issues and energy, among others.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
03 August 2018

