

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 22 AND 29 OCTOBER 2018

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meetings held on 22 and 29 October 2018:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Board Appointment;
4. Sangster International Airport Master Plan – 2016; and
5. Hosting of the 2019 Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit; and
6. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Canaan Heights Integrated Infrastructure Project, Clarendon

Cabinet approved the award of a contract by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), in the amount of \$160,451,700.25, to Alcar Construction and Haulage Company Limited for the execution of rehabilitative works under the Canaan Heights Integrated Infrastructure Project in Clarendon.

The JSIF Integrated Community Development Projects focus on promoting public safety and community transformation through access to, and improvement of, basic infrastructure and social services.

(ii) Chemical Supply and Services for Refinery Process and Utilities at Petrojam Limited

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,786,312.00, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Suez Water Technologies & Solutions for chemical supplies and services for the refinery process and utilities at Petrojam Limited for a period of three (3) years.

Chemicals are used as a part of the maintenance process for the equipment at the refinery, as well as for wastewater treatment for the effluent which is discharged by the refinery.

(iii) Firefighters' Protective Clothing (Bunker Gear) and Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for the Jamaica Fire Brigade

Cabinet approved the award of contracts, totalling US\$1,270,203.11, inclusive of General Consumption Tax (GCT) to Bell Safety Limited for the supply of the following:

- a) 350 firefighters' protective clothing in the amount of US\$833,037.33; and
- b) 99 self-contained breathing apparatus in the amount of US\$437,165.78.

The Jamaica Fire Brigade is experiencing critical shortages of firefighters' protective clothing and bunker gear. The need for protective gear is amplified as the Brigade has embarked on increased recruitment for the 2018/2019 financial year.

## 2. Legislation

### The Protection of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (Amendment) Act, 2018

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled “An Act to Amend the Protection of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture Act, 2018” to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to provide for the integration of certain functions of the Management Authority into the Ministry responsible for agriculture to:

- (a) ensure the integration of activities under the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture into the Government’s relevant agricultural and rural development policies and programmes;
- (b) cooperate with relevant international organisations in establishing or strengthening the capabilities of developing countries with respect to sustainable use of plant genetic resources and in promoting sharing and exchanging of plant genetic resources;
- (c) manage the Plant Resources Fund; and
- (d) establish and maintain a register of plant genetic resources.

## 3. Board Appointments

### (i) Standards Council

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Council for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2020:

- 1) Senator Matthew Samuda – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Andrene Collings – **Vice Chairman**;
- 3) Mr. Gregory Christian;
- 4) Mrs. Kadia Wright-Harris;
- 5) Mr. Don McGlashan;
- 6) Mr. Damali Thomas;
- 7) Ms. Michelle Parkins;
- 8) Ms. Tanikie McClarthy;
- 9) Mr. Bryon Thompson;
- 10) Mr. Collin Virgo;
- 11) Dr. Parris Lyew-Ayee, Jr;
- 12) Mr. Christopher Powell;
- 13) Mrs. Dolsie Allen; and
- 14) Executive Director of Standards, Bureau of Standards.

### (ii) Town and Country Planning Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 22 October 2018 to 21 October 2020:

- 1) Hon. Danville Walker, OJ – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Christopher Whyms-Stone – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Dr. Susan Otuokon;
- 4) Mr. Robert Taylor;
- 5) Mr. Robert Woodstock;
- 6) Mrs. Elizabeth Stair;
- 7) Mr. Richard Oliver;
- 8) Mrs. Marsha Henry Martin; and
- 9) Mr. Peter Knight, *ex officio*.

4. Sangster International Airport Master Plan – 2016

Cabinet approved the implementation of the Sangster International Airport (SIA) Master Plan 2016 by MBJ Airports Limited, following on the interim approval that was granted by the Airports Authority of Jamaica (AAJ), as required under the SIA Concession Agreement, and for the acquisition of the lands recommended in the Master Plan for the Development Programme.

MBJ Airports Limited is the current operator of the SIA under a 30-year Concession and Lease Agreement with the AAJ. In accordance with the Agreement, the Concessionaire is required to prepare a Development Programme for the airport.

5. Hosting of the 2019 Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit

Cabinet gave approval for the hosting of the 2019 Caribbean Hotel Investment Conference and Operations Summit (CHICOS) in November 2019.

The CHICOS is an annual hospitality conference organised by HVS, a New York-based consulting firm to the hospitality industry. Following a successful bid by JAMPRO, the organisers had agreed that Jamaica will be the host of the 2019 Conference.

6. Reports

(i) Update on the Technical Process to Roll Over the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) into a CARIFORUM-UK EPA, Post-Brexit

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in connection with the status of the technical discussions between the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States and the United Kingdom (UK) on the transposition of the CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) into a CARIFORUM-UK EPA, post-Brexit, and the implications for Jamaica.

The report informed of the work being done towards the conclusion of the negotiations on future relations between the UK and the EU; the contentious nature of the negotiations which may result in a "hard Brexit"; the impact of the Brexit on trade for Jamaica and the CARIFORUM region since trade with the EU, including the UK, was governed by the CARIFORUM-EU EPA; the transposition of the CARIFORUM-EU EPA into a CARIFORUM-UK EPA which commenced in January 2018 with a view to a new agreement with the UK; the agreed timelines for various meetings; synopsis of key issues in the technical discussions, including trade in goods, trade in services and development cooperation; and that effective 29 March 2019, the UK would no longer be a member of the EU.

The report further informed of Jamaica's interests in the matter; that the UK was Jamaica's principal trading partner in the EU, accounting for the largest share in exports to that market and was an important market for Jamaica's services exports; Jamaica's active engagement in the technical discussions; Jamaica's Trade in Services stakeholders' interest in having language in the CARIFORUM-UK EPA to address the barriers to Jamaica's services exports; and the engagement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade with the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and the Planning Institute of Jamaica with a view to finalising the language on development cooperation in the EPA text.

(ii) The National Standards Curriculum and the Primary Exit Profile

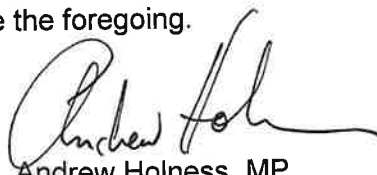
Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the status of the implementation of the National Standards Curriculum (NSC) and the Primary Exit Profile (PEP).

The report advised that the NSC was introduced to the education system in 2016 and was the foundation on which the PEP was established. The curriculum was changed to reflect a greater focus on concepts and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (creativity, collaboration, critical thinking and communication) and competencies. The full implementation of the NSC commenced on a phased basis in September 2016 in educational institutions at the level of Grades 1 to 9.

The report further advised that the PEP was a series of evaluations that would be administered to students in Grades 4 to 6 and reflected the policy shift of the Government to track students' progress over time, and would provide multiple assessment opportunities for students to demonstrate knowledge and skills based on the standards outlined in the NSC.

The report also advised of the components and execution of the PEP; the results of the Mock Assessment in the Performance Task; the rescheduling of the PEP Abilities Test to March/April 2019, based on a request from the Jamaica Teachers' Association (JTA); and the development of a PEP website, which would provide easily accessible information for students, parents and teachers and allow for publishers to promote their materials and facilitate the provision of feedback.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister

27 November 2018