

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 17 DECEMBER 2018

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 17 December 2018:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Appointment of Enterprise Team Public-Private Partnership for the Ministry of Health's Centres of Excellence in Oncology and Nephrology;
5. National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy;
6. Increase in Flat Rate Benefits Payable Under the National Insurance Scheme and the Implementation of Reform Measures;
7. Hosting of the 10th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services Annual Meeting, Jamaica; and
8. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Technical Services to Conduct a Strategic Review of Petrojam Limited

Cabinet approved the award of a three-month contract to Gaffney Cline and Associates to conduct a strategic review of Petrojam Limited in the amount of \$63,350,200.00, exclusive of General Consumption Tax.

Cabinet had previously approved the establishment of the Petrojam Review Committee to conduct a strategic review of the national refinery. The consultancy firm will provide technical assistance to the Committee in carrying out the review.

(ii) Building and Infrastructure Works for the National Housing Trust Clarendon Branch Office

Cabinet approved the award of contract in the amount of \$604,299,077.28 to Build-Rite Construction Company Limited for the undertaking of infrastructure works for the construction of the Clarendon Branch Office of the National Housing Trust (NHT) in May Pen Clarendon.

The NHT has branch offices strategically placed across thirteen (13) parishes to facilitate ease of access for transaction for its contributors and mortgagors. Due to the expanded portfolio of work for the Clarendon Office, a new building is required.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) National Export Import Bank of Jamaica for the Financial Years 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018; and
- (ii) LAMP Fund for the Financial Year 2012/2013.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

3. Board Appointments

(i) Aeronautical Telecommunications Limited (AEROTEL)

Cabinet approved the appointment of Miss Jonniann Mittoo to the Board of Directors, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 5 April 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) Jamaica Agricultural Commodities Regulatory Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 16 December 2020:

- 1) Mr. Dennis Boothe – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. John O. Minott;
- 3) Mr. Glendon Davis;
- 4) Mr. Stephen Black;
- 5) Mr. Horace Sherlock;
- 6) Mr. Sheldon Elliott;
- 7) Mr. Gusland McCook – *ex officio*; and
- 8) Mr. Shaun Baugh – *ex officio*.

(iii) Jamaica Cultural Development Commission

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Commission, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 17 April 2019, when the tenure of the Commission will expire:

- 1) Ms. Mexine Bisasor – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. George Ledgister – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Ms. Carole Guntley; and
- 4) Ms. Nancy McLean.

(iv) Jamaica International Financial Services Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Peter Young and Mr. Julian Mair to the Board of Directors, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 8 July 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(v) National Water Commission

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 16 December 2021:

- 1) Senator Aubyn Hill – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Steven Fong-Yee – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Mr. Baron Stewart;
- 4) Ms. Nola Elvey;
- 5) Mr. Jeremy Palmer;
- 6) Mr. Dwight Sibblies;
- 7) Mr. Stephen Edwards;
- 8) Mr. Tyrone Robinson; and
- 9) Ms. Adonia Chin.

(vi) Wigton Windfarm Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2020:

- 1) Mr. Oliver Holmes – **Chairman**;

- 2) Mr. Nigel Davy;
- 3) Mr. Andrew Mahfood;
- 4) Miss Georgia Gibson Henlin;
- 5) Mr. Gregory Shirley;
- 6) Mrs. Jacqueline Stewart Lechler; and
- 7) Mr. Hugh Johnson.

(vii) Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mrs. Andrea Livingston-Prince to the Board of Directors, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 6 November 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

4. Appointment of Enterprise Team Public-Private Partnership for the Ministry of Health's Centres of Excellence in Oncology and Nephrology

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Enterprise Team for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 17 December 2018 to 16 December 2020:

- 1) Professor Dr. Archibald McDonald – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Willard Brown;
- 3) Mr. Martin Lyn;
- 4) Mr. Dunstan Bryan;
- 5) Ms. Cecile Watson;
- 6) Ms. Carlene Morrison; and
- 7) Ms. Shauna-Kay Carter.

Cabinet also approved the Terms of Reference of the Enterprise Team of the Centres of Excellence in Oncology and Nephrology Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Transaction.

The enterprise team will examine the feasibility of developing Centres of Excellence for Oncology and Nephrology through a PPP. The locations identified for the Centres of Excellence are the St. Joseph's Hospital, with a satellite facility at the Cornwall Regional Hospital.

5. National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy

Cabinet approved the National Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy, 2018 to be tabled in Parliament as a White Paper.

The policy will provide the context for the development of innovative approaches to addressing the various determinants of infant morbidity and mortality, leading to better child health outcomes through the promotion of best practices regarding the feeding of infants and young children.

6. Increase in Flat Rate Benefits Payable Under the National Insurance Scheme and the Implementation of Reform Measures

Cabinet:

- (i) ratified the increase in the flat rate benefits payable under the NIS from \$2,800.00 per week to \$3,400.00 per week with effect from 1 April 2018;
- (ii) approved an increase in the contribution rate from 5% to 5.5% with effect 1 April 2019 and to 6% with effect 1 April 2020;

- (iii) approved an increase in the insurable wage ceiling from \$1.5 million to \$3 million as of April 2021 and to \$5 million in April 2022; and
- (iv) gave approval for an increase in the minimum weekly contribution for domestic workers, voluntary contributors and the self-employed to \$150.00 on 1 January 2019; \$200.00 on 1 January 2020; and \$250.00 on 1 January 2021; and indexing of the value to a three-year rolling average measure of inflation in financial year 2021/2022.

The reform measures being proposed have arisen from an actuarial review of the NIS, and are being implemented to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fund going forward.

7. Hosting of the 10th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services Annual Meeting, Jamaica
Cabinet approved Jamaica's hosting of the 10th Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) Annual Meeting to be held during the period 30 September 2019 to 3 October 2019.

The Forum provides a voice for leadership and advocacy relating to extension/rural advisory services at the global level via regional rural advisory networks, such as the Caribbean Agricultural Extension Providers' Network of which the Rural Agricultural Development Authority is a member.

8. Reports

(i) Brief on Partners' Forum 2018

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the outcome of the participation of the Minister of Education, Youth and Information in the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH) Partners' Forum 2018, held in New Delhi, India over the period 12 to 13 December 2018.

The report informed of the mandate of the Partnership to strengthen alignment and consensus-building to support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and that the Forum was held three years after the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report further informed that the Minister had been invited to speak at a session entitled "Early Childhood Development: Achieving the Best Start to Life Through Cross-Sectoral Action."

(ii) Trade Mission to New York for the Opening of JAMPRO's New York Office and Meetings in the New York Tri-State Area

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries in connection with a Report on the outcome of the official opening of the Jamaica Promotions Corporation's (JAMPRO) New York Office and the 'Doing Business with Jamaica' Forum from 17 to 18 September 2018.

The report informed that the reopening of JAMPRO's New York Office was in line with a strategic thrust to triple agricultural exports to the United States of America (USA) and attract inward investment from the Tri-State Area to Jamaica. It further informed that the partnership yielded a wide representation of the New York business community, inclusive of the Diaspora

members, to the Export Roundtable and the Forum as well as one-on-one meetings with potential investors.

The report further informed that the mission also sought to ascertain, from buyers and distributors of Jamaican products in New York Tri-State area, the current challenges being experienced in importing Jamaican products. In response to the challenges identified, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries, in collaboration with JAMPRO, agreed to host a series of "Exporting to the USA" seminars, whilst JAMPRO would lead on the execution of in-market "Taste of Jamaica" days in partnership with supermarket chains carrying Jamaican products and the Jamaican consulates across the USA.

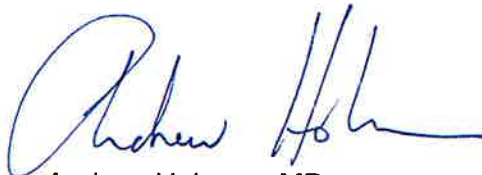
(iii) Ministry of Health Preparedness and Response to the Seasonal Increase in Dengue Virus Cases

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Health in connection with the Ministry of Health's preparedness and response to the seasonal increase in dengue virus cases.

The report informed of the history of the dengue virus in Jamaica; the outbreak of the dengue virus in 2016; the transmission of the virus through infected *Aedes Aegypti* female mosquitoes; that the virus was usually mild in some cases, with symptoms of fever, headaches, joint and muscle pains, but could progress to Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever/Dengue Shock Syndrome resulting in bleeding which could lead to shock and death.

The report further informed of the surveillance of dengue in Jamaica; the Ministry's response, including the vector control programme; the further enhanced strategies to mitigate the impact of the virus; and the strategies aimed at containing the spread of the disease to below outbreak levels and to sustain the gains of the current programme.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
12 February 2019

