

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 3 DECEMBER 2018

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 3 December 2018:

1. Annual Reports;
2. Memoranda of Understanding for Phase II – A New Path Project: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica;
3. Child Protection Compact Partnership between Jamaica and the United States of America;
4. Removal of Dead Electors from the Voters' List;
5. Funding of Medical Reports, Police Records and Food Handlers' Permits for Early Childhood Practitioners;
6. Reducing the Rate of Interest Payable on Judgment Debts;
7. Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools; and
8. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education Fund for the Financial Year 2017/2018; and
- (ii) Jamaica Social Investment Fund for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

2. Memoranda of Understanding for Phase 2 – A New Path Project: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica

Cabinet approved the implementation of Phase 2 of "A New Path Project: Promoting a Healthy Environment and Productive Alternatives for Juvenile Remandees and Offenders in Jamaica", to be implemented through two Memoranda of Understanding.

The first Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is among the Ministry of National Security of Jamaica, the Department of Correctional Services of Jamaica (the Receiving Participant), the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States and the Trust for the Americas and will facilitate the expansion of the Project to the Rio Cobre Juvenile Correctional Centre and Hill Top Juvenile Correctional Centre.

The second MOU, among the Ministry of National Security of Jamaica, the Department of Correctional Services of Jamaica, the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States and the Court of Justice of Paraná, Brazil, will enable the provision of an electronic case management system.

Phase 1 of the project focused on providing rehabilitation and reintegration services, technical training and individualised psychosocial/emotional services for the wards and releasees of both the South Camp Juvenile Correctional and Remand Centre and the Metcalfe Street Secure Juvenile Remand Centre.

3. Child Protection Compact Partnership between Jamaica and the United States of America

Cabinet approved the establishment of a Child Protection Compact Partnership Technical Committee comprising representatives from the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies.

The Jamaica-United States Child Protection Compact Partnership was signed in May 2018 and is a four-year plan developed jointly by the United States Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP Office) and the Government of Jamaica. The Partnership aims to strengthen the efforts of the Jamaican Government to effectively prosecute and convict child-traffickers, to work with civil society to identify victims of child-trafficking, to provide comprehensive informed-trauma care for child-victims of these crimes, and to prevent child-trafficking in all its forms.

4. Removal of Dead Electors from the Voters' List

Cabinet approved budgetary support to the Electoral Commission of Jamaica to undertake the removal of dead electors from the voters' list.

The main objective of the proposed exercise is to accelerate the identification, confirmation, and removal of the names of deceased electors. The Representation of the People Act, 1944 provides the legislative authority for the removal of the names of deceased persons from the voters' list.

5. Funding of Medical Reports, Police Records and Food Handlers' Permits for Early Childhood Practitioners

Cabinet gave approval for the fees for funding medical reports, Police Records, and Food Handlers' Permits for early childhood practitioners to be waived and be covered from the budgets of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information; the Ministry of National Security; and the Ministry of Health.

The constraints faced by early childhood practitioners in privately-owned and operated institutions in obtaining annual Food Handlers' Permits and biannual Police Records, as mandated by the Child Care and Protection Act, 2004, often render them non-compliant with the Public Health (Food Handling) Regulations, 1998, and the Early Childhood Act, 2005, respectively. This non-compliance results in the inability of some institutions to meet the standards necessary for operation as an early childhood institution.

6. Reducing the Rate of Interest Payable on Judgement Debts

Cabinet gave approval for a reduction in the rate of interest payable on judgement debts, in keeping with the regime recommended by the Bank of Jamaica for both local and foreign judgement debts.

The computation of the rate of interest payable on judgement debts is done pursuant to various legislation and is fixed by the Minister of Justice periodically. Given the nature of Jamaica's financial market, an adjustment of rates to reflect economic trends has become necessary.

7. Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools

Cabinet approved the *Interim Guidelines for Beverages in Schools*.

The Interim Guidelines precede the completion of the National School Nutrition Standards (NSNS) and the National School Nutrition Policy (NSNP) which are being developed by the Ministry of Health in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. The proposed Interim Guidelines aim at restricting the consumption of sugary drinks by managing the availability of such drinks in the school environment and are underpinned by findings from island-wide surveys as well as studies conducted in specific sections of Jamaica, and data from international sources including, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

8. Reports

(i) The Gazetting of Schools

Cabinet had for consideration a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the gazetting of 316 infant, primary, all-age and secondary institutions which had been reclassified.

The report informed that the 316 institutions were located across the six Regions of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, and that the reclassification of the schools was in accordance with section 4 of the Education Regulations (1980). The schools identified for gazetting resulted from the renaming of some institutions, changes in school types and classification and establishment of new public educational institutions.

The report provided data in relation to the classification of schools according to Region; and advised of the legislative and financial considerations.

(ii) Report on Official Travel by Minister Michael Henry to Participate in the Jamaica Gansu International Industrial Park Planning Seminar, Gansu Province, People's Republic of China

Cabinet had for consideration a report on the overseas travel to Gansu Province, People's Republic of China by a delegation led by the Minister without Portfolio in the Office of the Prime Minister to participate in the Jamaica Gansu International Industrial Park (JGIIP) Planning Seminar over the period 26 to 28 September 2018.

The report recalled the Framework Agreement on the Comprehensive Promotion of Construction of Gansu-Jamaica International Capacity Cooperation Special Economic Zone and Industrial Park, signed between the Government of Jamaica and the People's Government of Gansu Province of the People's Republic of China, as well as the Agreement of Intent for the construction of the JGIIP, and highlighted the benefits of the project to the country.

The report informed that the delegation participated in several meetings while in China, including JGIIP sensitisation sessions, meetings with members of Chinese Ministries and State

Entities, and a visit with Jamaican engineers being trained in China. It also provided highlights of the two-day JGIIP Planning Seminar convened during the Third Silk Road (Dunhuang) International Cultural Expo.

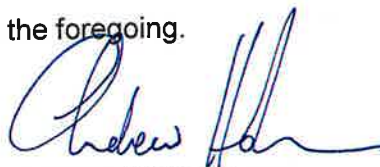
- (ii) Ministerial Representation at the XLVIII Meeting of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force
Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service regarding issues related to the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) and Jamaica's expanded participation in that organisation.

The report recalled that a delegation, led by the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, had attended the XLVIII Plenary Meeting of the CFATF held in Barbados from 22 to 23 November 2018; and advised of the main objectives of the CFATF to achieve effective implementation of, and compliance with, the Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to prevent and control money-laundering and to counter the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons.

The report also recalled the CFATF Mutual Evaluation of Jamaica in June 2015 which recorded low ratings for Jamaica following an assessment of the country's level of compliance with International Standards on Anti-Money Laundering, Countering the Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction; and the resulting categorisation of Jamaica in the CFATF Enhanced Follow-Up Process.

The report informed of the first Follow-up Report presented to the CFATF at the May 2018 Plenary and that the second Follow-Up Report would be presented in May 2019, and noted that the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service be tasked with driving the reform project forward.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister

22 January 2019