

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 8 DECEMBER 2017

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 8 December 2017:

1. Contract;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Update of the Privatisation and Public-Private Partnership Policies to Recognize the Government of Jamaica's Public Investment Management System (PIMS);
5. The Updated National Quality Policy and Implementation Plan;
6. Ratification of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters and Amendment of the Revenue Administration Act;
7. Agreement of Bilateral Cooperation on Sporting Activities Between the Government of Jamaica and Government of The Argentine Republic;
8. Ratification of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREE); and
9. Report.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contract

Award of Contract: Design of a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) Scheme

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of J\$118,422,854.42 to the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), for the design of a scheme for the payment for ecosystem services (PES), provided by the Yallahs and Hope River Watershed Management Units in east rural St. Andrew and western St. Thomas.

The objective of the consultancy is to support the development of a pilot PES scheme in the Yallahs and Hope River Watershed Management Units for biodiversity conservation and mitigation against water scarcity.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the:

- (i) Land Divestment Report for the Financial Year 2015/2016; and
- (ii) e-Learning Jamaica for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

3. Board Appointments

(i) Archives Advisory Committee

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Advisory Committee for a period of three (3) years with effect from 8 December 2017 to 7 December 2020:

- 1) Hon. Mrs. Zailia McCalla, OJ, *ex officio* – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Diedre English-Gosse, *ex officio* – **Vice Chairman**;
- 3) Ms. Beverley Lashley;
- 4) Dr. James Robertson;
- 5) Ms. Sonia Black;
- 6) Mr. Vivian Crawford;
- 7) Ms. Jo-Anne Archibald;
- 8) Mr. Maurice Barnes;
- 9) Ms. Nicole Walters-Wellington; *ex officio*
- 10) Ms. Cherièse Walcott; *ex officio*
- 11) Mrs. Claudette Thomas; and
- 12) Representative, Ministry of Finance and the Public Service.

(ii) May Pen Hospital Management Committee

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following members to the May Pen Hospital Management Committee, with effect from 8 December 2017 and up to 24 April 2019, when the tenure of the Committee will expire:

- 1) Mr. Fitzbert Mattis;
- 2) Mr. Courtney Murray;
- 3) Mr. Robert Burke-Green; and
- 4) Mrs. Neadene Tufton.

(iii) National Health Fund

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Kamal S. Mars to the Board, with effect from 8 December 2017 and up to 31 March 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(iv) National Education Trust (NET)

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Rohan Grant to the Board, with effect from 8 December 2017 and up to 31 March 2019, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(v) Nursing Council

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. George Wilson to the Council, with effect from 8 December 2017 and up to 24 April 2019, when the tenure of the Council will expire.

(vi) PETROJAM Limited

Cabinet approved the re-appointment of Dr. Perceval Bahado-Singh as Chairman of the Board of Directors, up to 3 April 2018, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(vii) Standards Council

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following members to the Council with effect from 8 December 2017 and up to 1 May 2018, when the tenure of the Council will expire:

- 1) Mrs. Andrene Collings;
- 2) Mr. Don McGlashan; and
- 3) Mr. Damali Thomas.

4. Update of the Privatisation and Public-Private Partnership Policies to Recognize the Government of Jamaica Public Investment Management System (PIMS)

Cabinet:

- (i) approved amendments to “The Policy Framework and Procedures Manual for Privatisation of Government Assets” and “The Policy and Institutional Framework for the Implementation of a Public-Private Partnership Programme for the Government of Jamaica”, to recognise the following:
 - (a) the Public Investment Management System and the role of the Public Investment Management Committee in the Public-Private Partnership project development and approval process; and
 - (b) the Public Investment Management Secretariat being the first point of contact and assessment for all unsolicited proposals and strategic investments; and
- (ii) directed that the revised documents be tabled in Parliament.

The Public Investment Management System (PIMS), has been established by legislation to provide a common framework for the preparation, appraisal, approval and management of public investments carried out by entities within the public sector, irrespective of source of funding or procurement modalities. Both policies needed to be revised to take into consideration the establishment and the critical role of the PIMS.

5. The Updated National Quality Policy and Implementation Plan

Cabinet gave approval for the updated National Quality Policy and Implementation Plan to be tabled in Parliament, as a Green Paper.

The previous iteration of the National Quality Policy was approved in 2001. Since then, several developments have occurred in the intervening years which have necessitated the update of the Policy. The three foci of the Policy are: the establishment and/or improvement of Jamaica’s quality culture; quality infrastructure; and quality management.

6. Ratification of the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters and Amendment of the Revenue Administration Act

Cabinet approved the:

- (i) ratification of the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters; and
- (ii) amendments to the Revenue Administration Act.

The Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, which was signed by Jamaica on 1 June 2016, is a freestanding multilateral instrument designed to promote international co-operation for better operation of domestic tax laws, whilst at the same time respecting the fundamental rights of taxpayers. The Convention is expected to foster the provision of administrative assistance in tax matters amongst contracting parties.

7. Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation on Sporting Activities Between the Government of Jamaica and Government of The Argentine Republic

Cabinet approved the signing of an Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in the field of sports between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of The Argentine Republic.

Both the Government of Jamaica and the Government of The Argentine Republic have completed negotiations on the draft Agreement which seeks to foster, promote and strengthen technical cooperation and sports exchanges between both countries.

8. Ratification of the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREE)

Cabinet gave approval for Jamaica, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, to ratify the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREE) that was signed by various Heads of Government, including Jamaica, on 6 July 2017 at the Thirty-Eighth Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held in Grenada.

The purpose of the CCREE includes the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency in Caribbean countries to support the development of a low-carbon economy; the enhancement of regional institutional capabilities for the transformation of the energy sector to efficient low-carbon; and the mobilisation of financial and technical assistance to support the implementation of low-carbon project activities.

9. Report

Official Visit by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to India and the Fifth Jamaica/India Foreign Ministry Consultations 9-11 October 2017

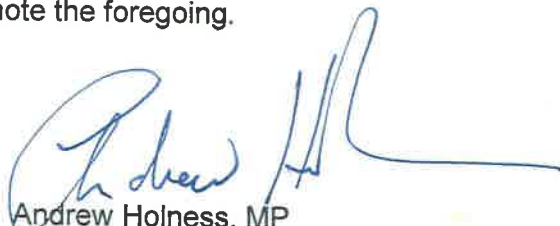
Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade regarding the outcomes of meetings attended by a delegation led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to the Republic of India during the period 9 to 11 October 2017, and which was preceded by the Fifth round of the Jamaica-India Foreign Ministry Consultations.

The report provided information on, among other things, discussions with:

- 1) India's Minister of External Affairs which focused on bilateral and technical cooperation and issues of mutual interest at the multilateral level;
- 2) India's Minister of Health and Family Welfare which focused on areas of cooperation as well as a proposal submitted by the Government of Jamaica for a bilateral arrangement on the improvement of cancer care in Jamaica;

- 3) India's Minister of Tourism which focused on increasing Jamaican tourist flows to India via the pursuit of an Air Services Agreement between the two countries to, inter alia, facilitate the development of trade, investment and tourism; and
- 4) the Indian Federation of Commerce and Agriculture to exchange views on the potential opportunities to increase bilateral trade and investments, including participation in Expo Jamaica 2018, which would take place in April 2018, and the Jamaica Investment Forum, scheduled for May 2018.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
30 March 2018

