

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 18 MARCH 2019

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 18 March 2019:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Implementation of the Social Housing Component of Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme;
5. Jamaica's 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> State Party Report Pursuant to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
6. Visit to Jamaica of the Ophthalmological Medical Team of the People's Republic of China (Bright Journey) April 2019;
7. Government of Jamaica Service Excellence Framework;
8. National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons Responses to Questions from the Embassy of the United States of America;
9. Amendment to the List of Items Requiring Import and/or Export Licences from the Trade Board Limited;
10. Signature of the CARIFORUM-United Kingdom (UK) Economic Partnership (EPA), Post Brexit;
11. Hosting of Regional Consultations between the CARIFORUM and European Union on Post-Cotonou Negotiations; and
12. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Supply and Installation of Air Conditioning Retrofits at the Jamaica Constabulary Force under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme

Cabinet approved the award of a contract for the supply and installation of air conditioning retrofits at three Divisions of the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programme (EECP) in the total amount of US\$471,067.34, excluding General Consumption Tax (GCT), and J\$46,911,398.24, excluding GCT, to Geddes Refrigeration Limited, as follows:

- a. Lot 1: Mobile Reserve in Kingston – US\$112,928.13 and J\$15,360,809.08;
- b. Lot 2: May Pen Divisional Headquarters in Clarendon – US\$155,440.98 and J\$14,925,018.22; and
- c. Lot 3: National Police College of Jamaica in St. Catherine – US\$202,698.23 and J\$16,625,570.94.

The EECP is intended to enhance the country's energy efficiency and energy conservation, through the design and implementation of cost-saving energy efficiency and conservation measures within the public sector.

(ii) Provision of Consulting Services to Conduct Reproductive Health Survey, 2019

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the total amount of \$64,558,327.00 to the Statistical Institute of Jamaica for the provision of consulting services to conduct the Reproductive Health Survey, 2019, on behalf of the National Family Planning Board for a contract period of sixteen months.

The Reproductive Health Survey is one of the principal ways in which sexual reproductive health information is garnered to inform plans, policies and programmes in this area.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Banana Board for the Year 2017;
- (ii) Bureau of Standards Jamaica (including the National Compliance and Regulatory Authority and the National Certification Body of Jamaica) for the Financial Year 2016/2017;
- (iii) e-Gov Jamaica Limited for the Financial Year 2017/2018;
- (iv) e-Learning Jamaica Company Limited for the Financial Year 2017/2018;
- (v) National Solid Waste Management Authority for the Financial Years 2015/2016 to 2017/2018;
- (vi) Postal Corporation of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2017/2018; and
- (vii) Registrar General's Department for the Financial Year 2016/2017.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

3. Board Appointments

(i) Agricultural Marketing Corporation

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board, with effect from 18 March 2019 to 9 December 2020:

- 1) Mr. Vitus Evans – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Gary Coulton – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Mr. Marshall Peterkin;
- 4) Mr. Junior Graham;
- 5) Mr. Karl Hyatt;
- 6) Dr. Gavin Bellamy;
- 7) Ms. Merle Donaldson; and
- 8) Ms. Marlene Porter.

(ii) Jamaica Dairy Development Board

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Derrick Deslandes as Chairman and Mr. Dennis Boothe as Deputy Chairman to the Jamaica Dairy Development Board, with effect from 18 March 2019 and up to 3 June 2021 when the tenure of the board will expire.

4. Implementation of the Social Housing Component of Housing, Opportunity, Production and Employment (HOPE) Programme

Cabinet approved the implementation of the Social Housing Component of the Housing, Opportunity, Production, Employment Programme (HOPE), by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

The Social Housing Component of the HOPE Programme will be comprised of three modalities: (i) provision of housing for the indigent, (ii) relocation of vulnerable communities, and (iii) upgrading of tenements. The component of the programme for the provision of indigent housing would entail the construction of approximately 315 housing units per annum for indigent persons, with each constituency being allocated five housing units.

5. Submission of Jamaica's 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> State Party Report Pursuant to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Cabinet approved the submission of the Combined 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Report on Jamaica's Implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention, Jamaica's Combined 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Periodic Report on legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures taken to give effect to the provisions of the Convention is being submitted to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General. The Report provides an overview of the implementation of the rights provided for under Article 1 to 7 of the Convention as well as progress achieved since the consideration of Jamaica's last Report in 2013. After the submission of the Report, the UN Committee is expected to provide feedback to the Government and engage in a structured dialogue with relevant officials.

6. Visit to Jamaica of the Ophthalmological Medical Team of the People's Republic of China (Bright Journey), April 2019

Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Jamaica and the People's Republic of China to facilitate the work of the Bright Journey Ophthalmological Medical Mission Team to Jamaica.

The Mission is expected to treat approximately 500 patients with eye care needs as well donate equipment and carry out educational sessions with Jamaican health care professionals.

7. Government of Jamaica Service Excellence Framework

Cabinet approved the Government of Jamaica Service Excellence Framework, which outlined the vision, principles and general approach to creating a new culture of service delivery across the public sector; and mandated the adoption of the Government of Jamaica Service Excellence Framework by all Ministries.

The Service Excellence Framework was designed to support the achievement of a 'citizen-centric' public sector with clear values, principles and standards that will reinforce the culture and ensure that all citizens, including the vulnerable and socially excluded, are able to access quality service. Information was provided on the vision of the Framework; the pillars of the Framework which are the People Engagement Pillar and the Performance Excellence Pillar; and the institutional arrangements for the Framework.

8. National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons: Responses to Questions from the Embassy of the United States of America

Cabinet gave approval for the responses to questions from the United States of America (USA) Embassy concerning various aspects of the work of the National Task Force Against Trafficking in

Persons; and the submission of these responses to the USA Embassy, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, along with supporting documentation.

The activities undertaken by the Government of Jamaica to combat human trafficking during the reporting period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 were outlined in the responses to questions from the US Department of State and would be submitted officially by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade.

9. Amendment to the List of Items Requiring Import and/or Export Licences from the Trade Board Limited

Cabinet approved the recommendation for the removal of the licensing requirements for specified products which currently require import or export licences by the Trade Board Limited.

This action stems from a recent World Bank report on Jamaica which recommended that specific import and export licences issued by the Trade Administrator be removed. These items are ones for which a permit, certificate or approval from another agency is required to verify the safety, quality or suitability of the imported or exported product. The licence from the Trade Board represents a secondary administrative approval which can be deemed redundant and a hindrance to doing business. Additionally, the removal of the Trade Board licences will not affect the primary control that the respective Ministries, departments and agencies have over these products.

10. Signature of the CARIFORUM-United Kingdom (UK) Economic Partnership (EPA), Post Brexit  
Cabinet approved Jamaica's signature of the CARIFORUM-United Kingdom (UK) Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

The CARIFORUM-UK EPA will govern Jamaica's and CARIFORUM's trade with the UK in a post-Brexit era. The Agreement covers trade in goods; trade in services; and investment and trade-related issues, such as intellectual property, competition, public procurement and data protection. Information was also provided on the approach to the technical exercise to replicate the CARIFORUM-EU EPA into a CARIFORUM-UK EPA; the agreement on both sides from the technical exercise; the main adjustments to replicate the EPA; the main text of the EPA; and the consultations done.

11. Hosting of Regional Consultations between the CARIFORUM and European Union on Post-Cotonou Negotiations 14-15 April 2019

Cabinet approved Jamaica's hosting of the First Regional Consultations between the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) and the European Union in Kingston from 14 to 15 April 2019.

The meeting is being convened to facilitate a political stock-taking between the representatives of the Caribbean region and the European Union to assess the progress made in the negotiations for the successor agreement to the expiring Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

## 12. Reports

### (i) Status of Joint Venture Agreements for the Provision of Housing Solutions and Related Infrastructure

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with an update on the status of the Joint Venture Agreements, between the Minister responsible for housing and private developers, from the inception of the Joint Venture (JV) Programme in 1994.

The report advised that the provision of affordable housing for low- and middle-income families had been at the forefront of national development plans since the early 1950s; and in working towards the goal, various policy options, housing strategies, programmes and projects had been developed over the years. It noted that there had been a shift in the policy of the Ministry with responsibility for housing in the mid-1980s from housing construction to the approach of providing an enabling environment for housing development and regulatory oversight. Subsequently, the Ministry partnered with other public sector agencies, non-Governmental Organisations and the private sector to address some of the needs of the housing sector through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The report also advised that, despite the delivery of housing solutions, several challenges were encountered. Notably, that several developers had failed to comply with the regulatory approvals and honour their obligations under the Agreements, which resulted in environmental and infrastructural issues; and, of 38 JV Agreements and other forms of PPPs that were signed since the inception of the programme, 25 remained incomplete. It noted the inability of many of the housing developments and related infrastructure to be handed over to Municipal Corporations and the National Water Commission to facilitate management and maintenance; and attempts by the Ministry to complete outstanding works in some developments, giving priority to at least one each financial year.

The report provided information on JV projects completed by the Ministry due to the failure of partners to carry out agreed responsibilities; and JV projects currently being undertaken by the Ministry with a view to completion by 2020.

### (ii) Establishment of the Education System Transformation Programme Review Committee

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with a proposal by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information to establish an Education System Transformation Programme Review Committee (ESTPRC).

The report advised that the Education System Transformation Programme (ESTP) had been established in 2009, in response to the 2004 Task Force Report on Educational Reform, to improve the quality of educational outcomes at all levels of the education system; and that the ESTPRC would evaluate the performance of the education reform activities under the ESTP and determine whether the intended impact of the Programme had been achieved.

Cabinet noted the information provided for the proposed membership of the ESTPRC for a period of six months, as follows:

- 1) Dr. Grace McLean, **ex officio**;
- 2) Professor Errol Morrison;

- 3) Professor Dale Webber;
- 4) Professor Fritz Pinnock;
- 5) Dr. Lincoln Edwards;
- 6) Professor Stephen Vasciannie;
- 7) Mrs. Elaine Foster-Allen;
- 8) Mr. Robert Wynter;
- 9) Dr. Garth Anderson;
- 10) Mrs. Trisha William-Singh;
- 11) Dr. Renee Rattray;
- 12) Mr. Cliff Hughes;
- 13) Mr. Alphansus Davis;
- 14) Mr. Marlon Morgan;
- 15) Ms. Barbara Allen;
- 16) Mrs. Winnie Berry;
- 17) Miss Kaysia Kerr;
- 18) Mr. Fabian Morris;
- 19) Bishop Howard Gregory;
- 20) Reverend Conrad Pitkin;
- 21) Mr. Lenford Salmon; and
- 22) Representative, Primary Students' Council.

(ii) Implementation of the Vernamfield Development Rehabilitation Project

Cabinet considered a report from the Office of the Prime Minister in connection with the implementation of the Vernamfield Development Rehabilitation Project.

The report advised that the Project was aligned with the Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan; and sought to actualise a key component of the logistic hub initiative that was already underway.

The report presented recommendations from a Report commissioned by the Airports Authority of Jamaica and indicated that an engineering study would be commissioned to provide costing and projected timelines in relation to the required runway repairs. It informed of the unsolicited expressions of interest received from prospective investors to provide aviation-related services, including maintenance repair and overhaul services; and advised that those activities could commence by September/October 2019 consequent on the rehabilitation of the runway.

The report also advised that a mechanical sweep of the runway scheduled for March 2019 would result in a Code 3C Airport to facilitate propeller-driven commuter aircraft and small executive jets; and that the rehabilitation of Vernamfield East would facilitate a fully compliant Code 4D aerodrome with Runway End Safety Areas at both ends.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

  
Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister  
17 June 2019