

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 27 MAY 2019

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 27 May 2019:

1. Contract;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Review Tribunal for the Witness Protection Programme under the Justice Protection Act;
5. Agreement Between the Governments of Jamaica and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Gainful Occupation of Members of the Families of Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Career Consular Post;
6. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contract

Jamaica Urban Transit Company Bus Refurbishing Programme

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$230,405,213.00 to BC Distributors Limited for the provision of bus refurbishing services to the Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) for the period 2019 to 2020.

The JUTC is embarking on the implementation of a refurbishment programme that is aimed at the periodical assessment and restoration of the aging bus fleet.

2. Legislation

The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled “The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2019” to be introduced in the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Income Tax Act and its First Schedule to give permanent effect to the Personal Income Tax Threshold provided for by way of Provisional Order in 2016, and to validate the collection of the tax and indemnify the Government of Jamaica and those who acted in good faith in the collection of taxes. The Bill also seeks to provide for an initial allowance on capital expenditure in respect of the purchase for renovation of industrial buildings.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company Limited for the Financial Year 2016/2017; and
- (ii) Police (Civilian Oversight) Authority for the Financial Year 2014/2015.

The Report will be tabled in Parliament.

4. Review Tribunal for the Witness Protection Programme under the Justice Protection Act

Cabinet approved the appointment of the Review Tribunal, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 27 May 2019 to 26 May 2022, as under:

- 1) The Honourable Justice Mr. Mahadev Dukharan (Retired) – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Glenmore Hinds; and
- 3) Reverend Dr. Devon Dick.

The Tribunal will be responsible for ensuring transparency, accountability and integrity relative to the operations and treatment of participants on the Witness Protection Programme pursuant to Section 16(4) of the Justice Protection Act.

5. National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation

Cabinet gave approval for the National Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2019-2039) to be tabled in Parliament, as a Green Paper.

The Policy aims to expand on the existing Science and Technology Policy (1990), to propel productivity, improve competitiveness of the country's industry structures to support faster growth, create jobs and improve health, education, security and governance. The Policy is also significant for future development, as the utilisation of new technologies would redefine the operations of industry and commerce, as well as support social development.

6. Agreement Between the Governments of Jamaica and the Federal Republic of Germany on the Gainful Occupation of Members of the Families of Members of a Diplomatic Mission or Career Consular Post

Cabinet approved the signing of an Agreement between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the gainful occupation of members of the families of members of a Diplomatic Mission or Career Consular Post.

The Agreement is intended to allow, on the basis of reciprocity, the dependent family members of diplomatic, consular, technical and administrative staff of the diplomatic or consular mission of one Party, who are officially assigned in the territory of the other Party, to freely undertake gainful occupation in accordance with domestic legislation.

7. Reports

(i) Report on the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation Held in Beijing, China

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Transport and Mining in connection with the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held during the period 25 to 27 April 2019 in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

The report advised of the discussions of the Belt and Road Forum; the highlights of the presentation by the Minister of Transport and Mining at the "Thematic Forum on Infrastructure Connectivity", including the three major projects and programme on which discussions were underway between the Government of Jamaica and the Government of the People's Republic of China, namely the Montego Bay Perimeter Road, the Greater Infrastructure and Development Programme, and the Blue Mountain Region Infrastructure Development; the other

discussions held at the Forum; the lessons learnt; and other meetings participated in by the Minister with the China Harbour Engineering Company and Jiuquan Iron and Steel Company.

(ii) Market Sounding for the Proposed Caymanas Special Economic Zone Project

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with a proposal for the hosting of a market sounding event in respect of the Caymanas Special Economic Zone Project (CSEZ) Public-Private Partnership Project, to be held on 11 June 2019.

The report advised that the Development Bank of Jamaica would be hosting a Private Equity and Infrastructure Development Conference over the period 10 to 12 June 2019, targeting over 300 local, regional and international attendees; and Castalia Advisors, communications consultants, had been engaged to assist in the execution of a market sounding for the CSEZ project. The event would target specific local and foreign stakeholders with interest in participating as tenants, developers and financiers of the project, and would provide an opportunity for the engagement of potential local and international investors to allow for the communication of information on several proposed projects being developed by the Government of Jamaica, including the CSEZ. The report included information on the objectives of the initial market sounding and the next steps.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.


Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
23 July 2019

