

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 28 OCTOBER 2019

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 28 October 2019:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Acquisition of Property in Huntley, Brown's Town by Tax Administration Jamaica (TAJ);
5. Acquisition of Lands at Weston Park (Brooks Common), Clarendon;
6. Visit to Jamaica of the United States Naval Hospital Ship, USNS Comfort;
7. Revision of the Maximum Age at Importation for Used Motor Vehicles;
8. Hosting of the Caribbean Public Sector Financial Management Conference;
9. Hosting of the Inter-regional Workshop on the Use of Nuclear Techniques for Sargassum; and
10. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Renovation Works, PanJam Building (3rd Floor), 60 Knutsford Boulevard, Kingston 5

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$67,343,037.92 to MLO Services Limited to undertake renovation works for the offices of the Public Procurement Commission (PPC) on the third floor of the PanJam Building located at 60 Knutsford Boulevard, Kingston 5.

The renovation works at the PanJam building will provide suitable accommodation for the PPC which is to be relocated from the Offices of the Integrity Commission.

(ii) Variation of Contract, Emergency Contract for Renovation Works at 61 Hagley Park Road, Kingston 10

Cabinet approved the variation of a contract with Chin's Construction Limited in the amount of \$20,979,305.24 for renovation works at the offices of the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development located at 61 Hagley Park Road, Kingston 10.

The revised contract sum is \$77,597,412.04 and the renovation works will be funded from the budget of the Ministry.

(iii) Business Continuity and Competitive Analysis Study at the Norman Manley International Airport

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$857,662.51, inclusive of General Consumption Tax of 16.5%, to InterVistas Consulting Incorporated for the Business Continuity and Competitive Analysis Study at the Norman Manley International Airport.

The study will provide baseline data and projections as inputs to projects and programmes for certain services and functions to ensure that the operators are positioned to fully maximise the airport's earning potential.

(iv) Wakefield to (Duhaney Crossing) Bunkershill Pipe Replacement Project – Phase 1, Trelawny

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$69,079,750.00 to Construction Solutions Limited by the National Water Commission for the Wakefield to (Duhaney Crossing) Bunkershill Pipe Replacement Project – Phase 1, Trelawny.

The current pipe network is in a state of disrepair which has adversely affected the service to customers as well as damaged the roads in the targeted area.

(v) General Insurance Coverage and Brokerage Services for the Third Year Placement of a Three-Year Contract

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Marathon Insurance Brokers Limited, for the provision of general insurance coverage and brokerage services for the National Water Commission (NWC) for the third year (2019/2020), of a three-year contract (2017/2020), as follows:

- a) placement of US\$ denominated policies: US\$1,510,961.00, exclusive of tax; and
- b) placement of J\$ denominated policies: J\$33,836,050.00, exclusive of tax.

In accordance with Government of Jamaica procurement guidelines, the NWC returned to market at the start of the third year of the contract.

(vi) Procurement of Services from City & Guilds International Limited to Register, Assess and Certify Students

Cabinet approved the award of a 10-year contract in the amount of £12,208,378.90 to City & Guilds International Limited for the provision of examination and certification to students.

City & Guilds International Limited is a world leading technical and vocational awarding body that offers qualifications across all major sectors that meet the needs of global employers.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Jamaica Bauxite Institute Limited for the Financial Year 2017/2018;
- (ii) National Housing Trust for the Financial Year 2018/2019; and
- (iii) National Social Protection Committee for the Financial Year 2018/2019.

The Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

3. Board Appointments

(i) Maxfield Park Children's Home

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 28 October 2019 to 27 October 2022, as under:

- 1) Mrs. Emprezz Golding – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Mr. Treneil Lowe;
- 3) Mrs. Pauline Beaumont;
- 4) Dr. Renee Rattray;
- 5) Mr. Jonathon Wemyss-Gorman;
- 6) Mr. Jonathon Watt;
- 7) Mrs. Angel Beswick-Reid;
- 8) Ms. Gail Abrahams;
- 9) Ms. Mikiela Gonzales;
- 10) Ms. Shakeera Douglas;
- 11) Mr. Neville Charlton;
- 12) Ms. Briana Russell;
- 13) Mr. Kadian Francis;
- 14) Dr. Earnest Madu;
- 15) Ms. Sueyen Thompson;
- 16) Mr. Davey Haughton; and
- 17) Ms. Camille Royes.

(ii) Petrojam Ethanol Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Kevin Richards as Chairman of the Board with effect from 28 October 2019 to 8 September 2021, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(iii) University Council of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of Reverend Dr. Roderick Hewitt as an *ex officio* member of the Council, with effect from 28 October 2019 to 12 May 2022, when the tenure of the Council will expire.

4. Acquisition of Property in Huntley, Brown's Town by Tax Administration Jamaica

Cabinet approved the purchase of properties located at Lots 2, 3 and 4 in Huntley, Brown's Town, St. Ann, and registered at Volume 1084 Folios 670 and 671 and Volume 1090 Folio 816 at a cost of \$19,500,000.00 for the purpose of relocating the Brown's Town Tax Office in St. Ann.

The space currently occupied by the Brown's Town collectorate has become inadequate to accommodate the staff complement and to serve the community.

5. Acquisition of Lands at Weston Park (Brooks Common), Clarendon

Cabinet gave approval for the acquisition, by private treaty, of 91 acres of lands registered at Volume 1409 Folio 845 at Weston Park (Brooks Common), May Pen in Clarendon by the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation under the Land Acquisition Act, 1947, at a cost of \$75 million, to enable the provision of security of tenure to the occupants of the property.

A preliminary assessment of the property to be acquired by the Ministry indicated that the land has been settled on by approximately 380 households; wooden and concrete block and steel structures are erected on the property; roads are unpaved and difficult to navigate; and electricity and piped water are available but need to be properly structured throughout the settlement.

6. Visit of the United States Naval Hospital Ship, USNS Comfort to Jamaica

Cabinet approved the visit to Jamaica of the United States Naval Hospital Ship, US Navy Ship (USNS) Comfort, as part of the Continuing Promise Mission 2019 during the period 25 October 2019 to 3 November 2019.

In 2007, the United States of America launched the President's "Advancing the Cause of Social Justice in the Western Hemisphere" Initiative with the objective of offering training to US military personnel whilst promoting US goodwill in the region. The initiative included a humanitarian mission, the Continuing Promise Mission, that employed the US Navy non-commissioned Hospital Ship, Comfort, with a total patient capacity of 1,000 beds.

7. Revision of the Maximum Age at Importation for Used Motor Vehicles

Cabinet approved the revision of the age of motor vehicles at importation, in accordance with the Motor Vehicle Import Policy, 2014, and the inclusion of a new category in the Schedule to make provisions for public passenger motor vehicles with an importation age limit not exceeding 8 years.

The revision will allow for entrepreneurs to acquire less costly public passenger units, reduce operating and overhead expenses, capitalise on business opportunities, and diversify business operations, thereby enhancing growth and development.

8. Hosting of the Caribbean Public Sector Financial Management Conference

Cabinet approved Jamaica hosting the Caribbean Public Sector Financial Management Conference, in collaboration with the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants (ACCA), on 30 January 2020.

The Conference will be held under the theme '*Creating a 21st Century Finance Function*' and will assist in renewing the focus on the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards across areas of the public service involved in financial and accounting operations.

9. Hosting of the Inter-Regional Workshop on the Use of Nuclear Techniques for Sargassum

Cabinet approved Jamaica hosting the Inter-Regional Workshop on the use of Nuclear Techniques for Sargassum Control.

The workshop will be held by the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences in collaboration with the Centre for Marine Sciences. Planning, coordination; and funding for the workshop will be undertaken with the assistance of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

10. Reports

(i) Update on Drought Mitigation and Management Measures Undertaken

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with drought mitigation and management measures undertaken.

The report advised of the drought conditions experienced island-wide in 2019, which mainly impacted the parishes of Clarendon, Kingston, St. Andrew, Manchester, Portland, St. Ann, St. Elizabeth, St. Mary and St. Thomas, leading to the implementation of drought mitigation strategies to reduce the negative social and economic effects of the drought; and the compounded impact in Kingston and St. Andrew from the road works being conducted along major distribution water mains routes, resulting in breaks in the water distribution networks.

The report further advised of the National Water Sector Policy and Implementation Plan 2019, tabled in Parliament in July 2019, and the subsequent activities undertaken; an update on the activities undertaken to address the drought situation island-wide, including meetings held in drought-affected parishes, island-wide mapping of water resources and infrastructure, the water trucking programme, the drought response of the National Water Commission, the Non-Revenue Water Reduction programme, the activities of the Rural Water Supply Limited, the Water IQ initiative, and the Rainwater Harvesting programme.

(ii) Status of the National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan and the National Squatter Survey

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with the status of the proposed National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan and the National Squatter Survey.

The report advised that squatting was a major problem in Jamaica which dated back to the period before Emancipation, and since Jamaica's Independence, there has been a proliferation of squatter settlements; a Rapid Assessment of the phenomenon conducted by the Squatter Management Unit in 2008 revealed a total of 745 squatter sites which was estimated at 20% of the country's population; and an earlier 2004 National Squatter Survey also revealed that approximately 75% of squatter settlements were located on government-owned lands, 15% on privately-owned lands, and the ownership of 10% of the lands could not be verified.

The report outlined the main objectives of the National Squatter Management Policy; the number of informal settlements verified; advised of the allocation of \$10 million for the financial year 2019/2020 activities, including the engagement of the Policy Development Coordinator; the data collection to be conducted over a 12-month period; and that the survey data would inform the development of policy measures which would be valuable in informing low income housing interventions.

(iii) National Youth Month Activities

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the proposed activities to commemorate Youth Month in November 2019.

The report advised that Youth Month 2019 would be celebrated in November under the theme “L.I.T – Jamaican Youth Leading, Inspiring and Transforming the World”; and the Ministry, in collaboration with key stakeholders, would be coordinating a series of activities, commencing with a launch on 2 November 2019, and including the launch of the National Youth Policy 2017–2030 (popular version), the Youth Month Thanksgiving Service, the 10th sitting of the National Youth Parliament, and the Prime Minister’s Youth Awards.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
15 December 2019