

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 13 JANUARY 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 January 2020:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Approval for Jamaica to Commemorate the International Year of Plant Health 2020;
4. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Supply, Installation and Commissioning Generator Sets for the Portmore Business Process Outsourcing Complex at the Portmore Informatics Park in Portmore, St. Catherine

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$102,604,765.00 to YP Seaton & Associates Company Limited for the supply, installation and commissioning of three 500 KVA Generator sets and one 1000 KVA Generator Set for the Portmore Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) Complex at the Portmore Informatics Park in Portmore, St. Catherine.

The Portmore Informatics Park will address the increased demand for space as well as serve as a staging site for a modern, purpose-designed BPO facility in the south-eastern region of the island.

(ii) Procurement of Works for the Construction of the Port Royal Street Coastal Revetment Project, Kingston

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$950,000,000.00 to S&G Road Surfacing Materials Limited for the construction of the Port Royal Street Coastal Revetment Project in Kingston.

The Port Royal Street coastline has experienced moderate to severe erosion since Hurricane Ivan in 2004. The current coastal protection measures have been severely damaged and outlived their useful life.

(iii) Variation to the Contract for the Denham Town Integrated Infrastructure Project

Cabinet approved the award of the variation to the contract in the amount of \$109,892,615.54, originally awarded by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund to Contraxx Enterprises Limited to carry out rehabilitative works under the Denham Town Integrated Infrastructure Project.

The variation has come about as a result of changes to the scope of works emanating from, among other things, the declaration of a Zone of Special Operations in the Area and the hindrance that the poor road network in the area has posed to the security forces.

(iv) Supply of Twenty Garbage Compactor Trucks for the National Solid Waste Management Authority

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,894,490.00 to Tank Weld Metals Limited for the supply of 20 garbage compactor trucks for the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA).

The increase in the fleet of trucks represents an effort on the part of the NSWMA to improve its operational efficiency.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Council of Community Colleges of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2014/2015; and
- (ii) National Council on Education for the Financial Year 2015/2016.

These Reports will be tabled in Parliament.

3. Approval for Jamaica to Commemorate the International Year of Plant Health 2020

Cabinet approved the commemoration of the International Plant Protection Convention International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020 with a launch scheduled for 22 January 2020 and a week of activities slated for 14 to 20 June 2020.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2020 as the IYPH, which was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on protecting plant health to help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development; and the IYPH will focus primarily on protecting plants from pests and diseases.

4. Reports

(i) National Competitiveness Council (NCC) Quarterly Update

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation in connection with a quarterly update from the National Competitiveness Council (NCC).

The report advised that the Council was a public-private partnership body established in 2010, to advance policy advocacy, research and public awareness of reform initiatives that facilitated the creation of an enabling environment for businesses in Jamaica; and the NCC focused on the identification, monitoring and driving of reforms being implemented by various Ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

The report further advised of the implementation of a new reporting structure that would have each implementing body report progress, next steps and interventions required for each reform on a quarterly basis to be tabled at each NCC meeting; reform updates, including the launch of the electronic platform for the registration of businesses; the new working structure of the NCC; and the re-commitment of the private sector members of the NCC.

The report also advised that in the Doing Business Report 2020 (DBR), Jamaica was ranked 71st of 190 economies with an ease of doing business score of 69.7 out of a possible 100 compared to 67.47 the previous year; Jamaica maintained its ranking as the top performing

English-speaking country and was ranked fourth in the Latin America and Caribbean region; Jamaica moved from a ranking of 79 out of 140 countries to a ranking of 80 out of 141 countries in the Global Competitiveness Report 2019; Jamaica had little or no improvement in the indicators of organised crime and the homicide rate, remaining at 135th and 140th, respectively; and was in stasis in already well-performing areas like starting a business for which Jamaica was ranked 7th.

(ii) Reggae Month 2020 Jamaica Festival, 1 February to 1 March 2020

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in connection with the plans for the staging of the Reggae Month 2020 Jamaica Festival.

The report advised that on 24 January 2008, the month of February was officially declared as Reggae Month and was spearheaded by the Minister responsible for culture, in association with the Jamaica Reggae Industry Association (JaRIA); the focus of Reggae Month had been “entertainment”, highlighting Jamaica’s musical history and heritage; the annual celebration had been a huge success, attracting over 40,000 attendees each year; and the goal of the month-long festival was to attract international acclaim for Jamaica as the Reggae mecca of the world, among other things.

The report further advised that February 2020 would mark the 13th staging of Reggae Month; a Reggae Month Jamaica mobile app had been developed as the primary source to digitally access details related to events scheduled during the month; and the Reggae Month 2020 Secretariat, under the guidance of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport, had been responsible for providing general support to Reggae Month and the planning and execution of signature Reggae Month Events, including the launch of Reggae Month 2020, which took place on 3 December 2019.

(iii) National Youth Month 2019 Activities

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with 2019 National Youth Month activities celebrated under the theme *L.I.T – Jamaican Youth Leading, Inspiring and Transforming our World*.

The report provided an overview of the activities, 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; the Around the Table Discussions; Global Night; the installation of the National Secondary Students Council, the Jamaican Union of Tertiary Students and the Prefects Association of Jamaica; the National Youth Parliament of Jamaica Courtesy Call with the Prime Minister; the Youth Advisory Council Installation; the Youth Innovation Centre Integration activities; and the Prime Minister’s National Youth Awards for Excellence.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.


Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
13 May 2020

