

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 20 JANUARY 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 January 2020:

1. Annual Report;
2. Board Appointment;
3. National Housing Trust Special Benefit Orders;
4. Determination of Exclusive Zones for Integrated Resort Developments in Jamaica;
5. Proposal for Increased Benefits to Government Pensioners; and
6. Jamaica's National Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Annual Report

Cabinet noted the Annual Report of the Administrator General's Department for the Financial Year 2017/2018.

The Report will be tabled in Parliament at a later date.

2. Board Appointment

Jamaica Energy Council

Cabinet approved the appointment of the Ms. Verona Carter and Mr. Derrick Thompson to the Council as representatives of the American Chamber of Commerce of Jamaica and the Jamaica Gasoline Retailers Association, respectively.

3. National Housing Trust Special Benefit Orders

(i) Linvale Housing Development, St. Ann

Cabinet approved the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order, effective 28 October 2019, to facilitate the allocation of 10 housing solutions at the Linvale Housing Development in St. Ann, to contributors to the National Housing Trust who met the specified criteria; and the issuance of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to facilitate the promulgation of the said Special Benefit Order.

The Special Benefit Order will facilitate the allocation of 10 housing solutions to varying numbers of persons representing contributors from the following groupings – the Jamaica Constabulary Force; Jamaica Defence Force; the Jamaica Teachers' Association; the Nurses Association of Jamaica; Jamaica Civil Service Association; Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions; and Tourism workers.

(ii) Ruthven Housing Development, Phase 1, St. Andrew

Cabinet approved the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order, effective 29 November 2019, to facilitate the allocation of 19 housing solutions at the Ruthven Housing Development,

Phase 1 in St. Andrew, to contributors to the National Housing Trust who met the specified criteria; and the issuance of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to facilitate the promulgation of the said Special Benefit Order.

The Special Benefit Order will facilitate the allocation of 19 housing solutions to varying numbers of persons representing contributors from the following groupings – the Jamaica Constabulary Force; Jamaica Defence Force; the Jamaica Teachers' Association; the Nurses Association of Jamaica; Jamaica Civil Service Association; Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions; and "Young Adults".

(iii) The Orchards Housing Development, Phase 2, St. Catherine

Cabinet approved the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order, effective 29 November 2019, to facilitate the allocation of 22 housing solutions at The Orchards Housing Development, Phase 2 in St. Catherine, to contributors to the National Housing Trust who met the specified criteria; and the issuance of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to facilitate the promulgation of the said Special Benefit Order.

The Special Benefit Order will facilitate the allocation of 22 housing solutions to varying numbers of persons representing contributors from the following groupings – the Jamaica Constabulary Force; Jamaica Defence Force; the Jamaica Teachers' Association; the Nurses Association of Jamaica; Jamaica Civil Service Association; Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions; and "Young Adults".

(iv) Silver Sun Housing Development, St. Catherine

Cabinet approved the promulgation of a Special Benefit Order, effective 29 November 2019, to facilitate the allocation of 56 housing solutions at the Silver Sun Housing Development in St. Catherine, to contributors to the National Housing Trust who met the specified criteria; and the issuance of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to facilitate the promulgation of the said Special Benefit Order.

The Special Benefit Order will facilitate the allocation of 56 housing solutions to varying numbers of persons representing contributors from the following groupings – the Jamaica Constabulary Force; Jamaica Defence Force; the Jamaica Teachers' Association; the Nurses Association of Jamaica; Jamaica Civil Service Association; Jamaica Confederation of Trade Unions; and "Young Adults".

4. Determination of Exclusive Zones for Integrated Resort Developments in Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the following exclusive zones for Approved Integrated Resort Developments (IRDs):

- (a) Montego Bay Exclusive Geographic Zone – to include the parishes of St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland;
- (b) Ocho Rios Exclusive Geographic Zone – to include the parishes of St. Ann, Trelawny, St. Mary and Portland; and
- (c) Kingston Exclusive Geographic Zone – to include the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Thomas, St. Catherine, Clarendon, Manchester and St. Elizabeth.

The concept of IRD was introduced by the Government of Jamaica in consideration of further expanding the tourism product. These luxury resort developments were required to provide a fresh, interesting and lucrative alternative within the sector; which include, but not be limited to, hotels, villas, sporting and recreational facilities, shopping centres and casino gaming. The establishment of exclusive geographic zones is expected to increase the attractiveness of investing in the development of IRDs.

5. Proposal for Increased Benefits to Government Pensioners

Cabinet gave approval for the increases to Government pensioners, including widows/widowers and dependants, with effect 1 July 2019, as follows:

Category	Proposed Increase
Up to \$35,000.00 per month	\$20,700.00 per annum (\$2,300.00 per month)
\$35,001.00 to \$42,000.00 per month	\$16,200.00 per annum (\$1,800.00 per month)
\$42,001.00 to \$54,000.00 per month	\$14,400.00 per annum (\$1,600.00 per month)
\$54,001.00 and over per month	\$12,150.00 per annum (\$1,350.00 per month)

Cabinet also gave approval for an increase:

- (i) to widows/widowers of \$12,600.00 per annum (\$1,400.00 per month) and an increase to dependants of \$11,700.00 per annum (\$1,300.00 per month);
- (ii) to be applied to eligible persons, as follows:
 - (a) persons on pension for at least 2½ years as at 1 January 2019 who were 55 years of age or older at 1 July 2019; or
 - (b) persons retired on the ground of ill-health, regardless of age, as at 1 July 2019; or
 - (c) widows/widowers and dependants whose pension commenced prior to 1 July 2019.

6. Jamaica's National Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

Cabinet approved Jamaica's National Review Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995 and the Outcomes of the Twenty-Third Special Session of the General Assembly, 2000 to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the UN-Women.

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action provided a global policy action framework for women's human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women in 12 critical areas, including poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflict, the economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanism, human rights, media, the environment, and the girl child.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister

13 May 2020

