

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 30 MARCH 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 30 March 2020:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointment;
4. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Installation of One Compact 200 Bridge at the Riverton Landfill, St. Andrew

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$110,995,500.00 to Alcar Construction and Haulage Company Limited, by the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA), to undertake works for the installation of one Compact 200 Bridge at the Riverton Landfill in St. Andrew.

The bridge leading to the Riverton Landfill serves the largest region that is managed by MPM Waste Management Limited. This region receives waste from the parishes of Kingston, St. Andrew, St. Catherine and St. Thomas. This bridge has been in a state of disrepair for a number of years. It has outlived its useful life and there is a high probability of it collapsing.

(ii) Upgrade of the Automatic Weather Observing System, Norman Manley International Airport

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$545,792.59, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Morcom International Inc, by the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority, for the upgrade of the Automatic Weather Observing System, including the Low-Level Wind-Shear Alert System at the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA).

The existing system was commissioned in 2016. The limitations of the system were evident from then and plans immediately ensued to upgrade to the new system.

(iii) Construction of the Annotto Bay Hospital Physiotherapy Department and Laboratory

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$131,676,150.00 to Otiga Engineers Company Limited by the North East Regional Health Authority (NERHA) for the construction of the Annotto Bay Hospital Physiotherapy Department and Laboratory.

The Annotto Bay Hospital is a Type C facility located in the parish of St. Mary. The hospital requires a new building to house its Physiotherapy Department and the Laboratory.

- (iv) Rehabilitation of the Sewage Treatment Plant of the St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital
Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$64,069,609.00 to Marshall Construction Limited, by the North East Regional Health Authority (NERHA), for the rehabilitation of the St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital sewage treatment plant.

The St. Ann's Bay Regional Hospital is a Type B facility located in the parish of St. Ann. The sewage treatment plant at the hospital is in a poor condition and in need of rehabilitation.

- (v) Construction of Buff Bay District Health Centre
Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$136,532,945.00 to Marshall Construction Limited, by the North East Regional Health Authority (NERHA), for the construction of the Buff Bay District Health Centre.

The Buff Bay District Health Centre is one of 70 health centres and is located in the parish of Portland. A new building is required to house the health centre due to the state of the existing infrastructure.

- (vi) Renewal of Insurance Coverage for the Port Authority of Jamaica
Cabinet gave approval for the renewal of the insurance portfolio of the Port Authority of Jamaica with Marathon Insurance Brokers Limited (MIB) for the second year of a three-year contract for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2022, with the following premiums for the second year commencing 1 April 2020:
- United States Dollar (US\$) Denominated Policies - US\$2,054,257.00; and
 - Jamaican Dollar (J\$) Denominated Policies -J\$14,313,227.00.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Report for the:

- (i) Coconut Industry Board for the Calendar Year 2018; and
- (ii) National Poverty Reduction Programme for Financial Year 2018/2019

3. Board Appointment

National Fisheries Authority

Cabinet approved for the appointment of the following persons to the Authority, for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023:

- 1) Lt. Cdr. George Overton – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Richard Pryce;
- 3) Dr. Karl Aiken;
- 4) Ms. Nicole O'Reggio;
- 5) Dr. Vincent Wright;

- 6) Mr. Michael Pryce, Chief Technical Director of the Ministry responsible for fisheries – ex officio;
- 7) Mr. Courtney Cole, Chief Executive Officer of the Authority – ex officio;
- 8) Ms. Samantha Allen – ex officio; and
- 9) Ms. Althea Jarrett – ex officio.

4) Reports ,

(i) Government of Jamaica Policy Development Programme as at 31 December 2019

Cabinet considered a report from the Cabinet Office in connection with the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) Policy Development Programme, as at 31 December 2019.

The report advised that the Policy Development Programme monitored national policies that were being developed by Ministries and items that were operational in nature or which focused on legislative changes were not included in the Programme.

(ii) Policy Implications of the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, 2016 and 2017

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service in connection with the policy implications of the Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) for 2016 and 2017.

The report informed that the JSLC was a joint publication of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), based on an annual survey conducted by STATIN; the survey, which was first conducted in 1988, provided household level data for evaluating the impact of government policies on the living conditions of the population and measured a range of indicators; and the policy implications were derived from the findings of the survey and served to guide the country's social development.

The report further informed of policy issues which arose from the 2016 and 2017 surveys, including demographic characteristics, household consumption and poverty, health education, housing, and social protection.

(iii) First Responders to Ride Free on Jamaica Urban Transit Company and Montego Bay Metro Buses

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Transport and Mining that first responders would be allowed to ride free of charge on the Jamaica Urban Transit Company (JUTC) and the Montego Bay Metro (MBM) buses to assist in the fight against the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in Jamaica.

The report recalled news reports that taxis operators had been refusing to transport nurses in certain sections of the country; whilst the Ministry of Health and Wellness had taken steps to provide buses for the transportation of nurses, the Ministry of Transport and Mining was bolstering those efforts pre-emptively, where it could, as the situation unfolded.

The report also stated that the Ministry of Transport and Mining had mandated the JUTC and the MBM to transport first responders without charge; and the persons eligible for inclusion in the categorisation "first responders" were medical doctors, all categories of nurses, interns, porters, hospital staff, private ambulance drivers, firemen, police officers and soldiers.

(iv) COVID-19 Monitoring and Assessment

Cabinet considered a presentation from the Ministry of Health and Wellness on the current situation in relation to COVID-19 in Jamaica.

It was noted that there were now 36 confirmed cases of the COVID-19 in the country; if the country continued a project path of 8-Day Doubling of cases, the public health care system could effectively manage the spreading of the COVID-19; if the country moved to a 5-Day or 2-Day Doubling of spread, then the health care system could not effectively manage the spread of the disease; individuals entering the country from the 18 to 23 of March 2020 were of concern as they were a risk to the country if they were not self-quarantining or staying at home; and that additional measures to curtail the spread of the disease would be announced.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

23 July 2020