

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 6 APRIL 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 6 April 2020:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Compulsory Acquisition of Properties in parts of New Town and Jones Town in St. Andrew;
5. Sale of Lands at Harbour Head in Kingston to Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company Limited;
6. Revision of the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government-owned Lands;
7. Assistance Package for Jamaica-based Individuals and Businesses to Cushion the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
8. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Infrastructure Works to Facilitate the Provision of 50 Service Lots at Mona (Section 1), St. Andrew

Cabinet approved the award of a contract by the Housing Agency of Jamaica Limited in the amount of \$371,187,597.49 to Surrey Paving and Aggregate Company Limited to undertake infrastructure works to facilitate the provision of 50 service lots at Mona (Section 1) in St. Andrew.

The Housing Agency of Jamaica Limited (HAJL) will be developing approximately 8.45 hectares (20.88 acres) of land located between the Pines of Karachi and the Long Mountain Country Club. The proceeds from the sale of the lots will be used to fund housing solutions for the lower income market, to undertake infrastructure works in informal settlements, as well as to address issues existing in the Pines of Karachi development.

(ii) Procurement of 400 Design Aided Computers

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$60,285,180.40, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Massy Technologies InfoCom (Jamaica) Limited for the procurement of 400 computers for use in the Design Aided Computers Project.

The computers will be used to facilitate students sitting Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE) Technical Drawing.

(iii) Extension of Contract - Public Relations Agency

Cabinet approved the award of a second variation in the amount of US\$450,000.00, to a contract originally awarded to Finn Partners by the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) for the provision of global public relations services during the five-month period 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020, noting that the original contract amount was US\$5,976,000.00, that is,

US\$996,000.00 per annum and the new contract amount was US\$9,666,000.00, which was a 61.79% increase over the original.

The variation is to facilitate a short-term extension of the existing contract whilst the JTB undertakes the procurement process for a new public relations contract.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Report for the:

- (i) Electoral Commission of Jamaica for Financial Years 2017/2018 and 2018/2019;
- (ii) Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP) for Financial Years 2013/2014 and 2014/2015; and
- (iii) Nutrition Products Limited for the Financial Year 2018/2019

3. Board Appointments

(i) Institute of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Council for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 6 April 2020 to 5 April 2023:

- 1) Mr. Howard Mitchell – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Marigold Harding – **Vice Chairperson**;
- 3) Bishop Hero Blair – **Vice Chairman**;
- 4) Mr. Steven Golding;
- 5) Professor Ronald Young;
- 6) Professor Rupert Lewis;
- 7) Mr. Stephen Facey;
- 8) Dr. Pamela Appelt;
- 9) Mr. Patrick Stanigar;
- 10) Senator Tom Tavares-Finson;
- 11) Ms. Joy Douglas;
- 12) Mr. Orville Hill, Chairman, Jamaica National Heritage Trust – **ex officio**;
- 13) Ms. Mexine Bisasor, Chairman, Jamaica Cultural Development Commission – **ex officio**; and
- 14) Mr. Vivian Crawford, Executive Director, Institute of Jamaica – **ex officio**.

(ii) Vocational Training Development Institute

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 6 April 2020 to 5 April 2023:

- 1) Professor Halden Morris – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Wayne Robinson;
- 3) Mr. Clement Radcliffe;
- 4) Ms. Janene Wright;
- 5) Mr. Errol Holmes;
- 6) Mrs. Gillian Rowlands;
- 7) Ms. Shanique Plummer;
- 8) Ms. Joyette Myrie;
- 9) Mrs. Janice Roxburgh;
- 10) Ms. Kesha Brown;

- 11) Mr. Carlos Curtis;
- 12) Ms. Sheika Walsh;
- 13) Mrs. Delize Williams, Principal/Director, Vocational Training Development Institute – *ex officio*; and
- 14) Two Members, with particular expertise, nominated by the Board.

4. Compulsory Acquisition of Properties in parts of New Town and Jones Town in St. Andrew

Cabinet gave approval for the compulsory acquisition of 219 parcels of privately owned land in parts of New Town, and Jones Town in St. Andrew under the 1947 Land Acquisition Act, to facilitate the declaration of the area as a Housing Area under the 1969 Housing Act.

The acquisition of the land will enable the construction of a police plaza, inclusive of shared Government spaces, to accommodate approximately 3,000 police officers and a housing complex with community facilities.

5. Sale of Lands at Harbour Head in Kingston to Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company Limited

Cabinet approved the proposed sale of 5.36 acres, part of lands registered at Volume 937 Folio 166 at Harbour Head in Kingston, known as Kingston Dry Dock, to the existing lessee the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company Limited and/or its Nominee, the German Ship Repair Jamaica Limited, formerly Kingston Dock Yard Property Limited, by the Commissioner of Lands, for the sale price of \$171 million, subject to the conducting of a survey.

The two parcels of adjoining land are currently leased from the Commissioner of Lands by the Jamaica Fruit and Shipping Company Limited (JFS), and the company intends to use the properties for a dock yard project.

6. Policy and Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government-owned Lands

Cabinet approved the evaluation and revision of the Policy and Procedures Manual for the Divestment of Government-owned Lands, 2015.

Section 4.2 of the Policy Manual provides that the Government, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, should conduct an evaluation of the policy at the end of two (2) years of implementation; and the revision of the policy based on the status of its implementation should be conducted every three (3) years. The Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation has invited the stakeholders to nominate a representative to a Working Group established to undertake the evaluation; and the completion of the review was scheduled for the 2020/2021 financial year.

7. Assistance Package for Jamaica-based Individuals and Businesses to Cushion the Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Cabinet gave approval for the central Government provision of a \$10.6 billion Targeted Assistance Package for Jamaica-based individuals and businesses over a three-month period to cushion the negative economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the country.

It is being proposed that targeted packages be provided for Jamaican-based individuals and businesses under a programme titled COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE);

and the programme would be implemented primarily through an online system with the electronic transfer of funds to beneficiaries.

## 8. Reports

### (i) The 63rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (63rd CND)

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of National Security in connection with a report on the outcome of the participation of Jamaica at the 63rd Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).

The report advised of the National Statement of Jamaica by the Minister without Portfolio in the Ministry of National Security; the 13 recommendations considered and approved by the CND, which were supported by Jamaica; and the decision by the CND to defer the vote on the recommendations of the World Health Organization on the scheduling of cannabis.

The report further advised that Jamaica, in accepting the consensus decision to postpone the vote, took note of the understanding that definitive action by way of vote would be taken in December 2020; and Jamaica further expressed the view that continued delay was not in the best interest of those in need of access to medicinal cannabis and urged that Members use the additional time granted for scientific and evidence-based evaluation.

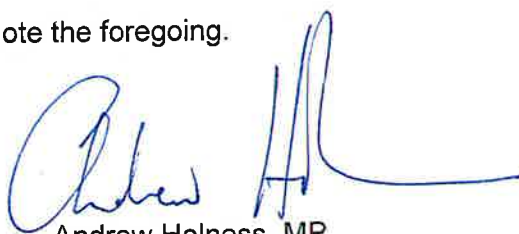
### (ii) Chief Inspector's Report 2018 on Quality and Standards in the Jamaican Education System

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with an assessment of the quality and standards in the Jamaican education system for the academic year August 2017 to July 2018, as outlined in the 2018 Chief Inspector's Report.

The report advised that the National Education Inspectorate (NEI) operated under the auspices of the Ministry responsible for education; the mandate of the NEI was to assess standards attained by the students in primary and secondary schools, and to report students' performance or improvement; the NEI was responsible for making recommendations to support improvement in the quality of the provision and outcomes for all learners; and the NEI also had a value-added model for assessing the contribution of schools to the development of students.

The report further advised that the Chief Inspector's Report, produced annually, took into account all the preceding factors so that the Minister responsible for education, the Parliament and the general public could have an independent assessment of the performance of the education system; and the 2018 Report was produced from inspections completed between 2015 and 2019.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

23 July 2020