

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 18 MAY 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 18 May 2020:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Proposal for the Transitional Arrangement and Implementation of Digital Switchover (DSO) in Jamaica; and
5. Report

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Provision of Dietary Services for the Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals

Cabinet, the award of a contract in the amount of \$1,164,495,555.00, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, on behalf of the South East Regional Health Authority (SERHA), to Patsy Lyn Caterers Limited, for the provision of dietary services for the Kingston Public and Victoria Jubilee Hospitals for three (3) years.

The caterer will be tasked with providing meals for staff and patients at both facilities.

(ii) Variations to Security Guard Services Contract - Petrojam Limited

Cabinet approved the cumulative variation of a contract, on behalf of Petrojam Limited, for the provision of security guard services. The total variation represents a 33% increase to the initial contract value of \$364,798,251.09 with a revised contract amount of \$484,654,977.18.

The reasons for the variation included fluctuations in the minimum wage as well as delays in the procurement process.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Report for the:

- (i) Scientific Research Council for the Financial Years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018; and
- (ii) Management Institute for National Development (MIND) for the Financial Year 2018/2019.

3. Board Appointment

Human Employment and Resource Training/National Service and Training Agency Trust

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for the period of two (2) years with effect from 28 May 2020 to 27 May 2022:

- 1) Mr. Edward Gabbidon – **Chairman**;
- 2) Senator Kavan Gayle, CD;
- 3) Miss Barbara Allen;
- 4) Mr. Wayne O. Robertson;
- 5) Colonel Martin Rickman;
- 6) Miss Monique Gibbs;

- 7) Dr. Kofi Nkrumah-Young;
- 8) Mrs. Eleasia Charles;
- 9) Miss Tova Hamilton;
- 10) Mrs. Georgia Gibson Henlin, QC;
- 11) Mr. Michael Shaw; and
- 12) Dr. Garth Anderson.

4. Transitional Arrangement and Implementation of Digital Switchover (DSO) in Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for:

- (i) the dates for the commencement of the Digital Switchover and Analogue Switch-off;
- (ii) the proposed Digital Standards; and
- (iii) authorising the Minister with responsibility for information to:
 - (a) establish a transitional arrangement to operationalise the Analogue Switch-off and the Digital Switchover; and
 - (b) set the dates by which retailers should cease the importation of analogue television sets.

The term 'Digital Switchover' (DSO) refers to the transition from transmitting analogue signals to digital signals for broadcasting. Cabinet was informed of the the DSO process; the establishment of the DSO National Steering Committee in February 2009, chaired by the Minister with responsibility for information and co-chaired by the Chairman of the Broadcasting Commission; the associated issues; the available options; the analysis done; the human resources, legal and financial considerations; the proposed standards and projections; and the consultations done.

5. Report

Virtual Instructional Leadership Course

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with a virtual instructional leadership course for school administrators.

The report informed that, given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government took the decision to suspend classes in the physical learning environment and had encouraged the use of online learning platforms to keep students engaged throughout the period; and consequently, school administrators were charged with developing the plan to move teaching immediately online with a view to ensuring the continuation of quality learning and teaching for all students.

The report further informed that the shift posed a challenge for several school administrators; in response to the challenge, the National College for Educational Leadership, through the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information, was in the process of designing an online course to build the capacity of principals of public, private and early childhood institutions nationwide, as they coped with the shift in the learning and teaching process during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; and the course would be launched on 1 June 2020.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

23 July 2020