

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 26 MAY 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 26 May 2020:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Jamaica's Information System for Health National Plan of Action, 2017-2021;
5. The Opening Up of the Tourism Sector; and
6. Report.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Provision of Security Guard Services for Off-Site Divisions of the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$159,396,505.54, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, to King Alarm Services Limited for the provision of security guard services to the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service and its off-site Divisions for a period of three (3) years.

The contractor will provide static guard and mobile patrol services at its Car Park and Heroes Circle location, as well as at the Shalimar Complex.

(ii) Supply of Medical Sundries for the National Health Fund

Cabinet approved the award of fourteen (14) contracts, on behalf of the National Health Fund (NHF), for the supply of medical sundries for a period of three (3) years as follows:

	Supplier	No. of Awards	Value of Items (US\$)	Total Value (J\$)
1	GST Corporation Limited	38	\$3,353,881.32	\$452,773,978.20
2	Renal Dynamics LLC	11	\$2,842,321.50	\$383,713,402.50
3	Medical Disposables and Supplies Limited/Morningside Pharmaceuticals Limited	24	\$2,665,899.00	\$359,896,365.00
4	A.A. Laquis (Trinidad) Limited	28	\$2,712,416.04	\$366,176,165.40
5	Scientific Supplies & Technology	67	\$2,220,551.13	\$299,774,402.55
6	Queens Surgical Corporation/Raivansa Inc.	29	\$1,621,279.10	\$218,872,678.50
7	Victus, Inc.	2	\$1,518,000.00	\$204,930,000.00
8	LASCO Distributors Limited	23	\$ 971,144.64	\$131,104,526.40
9	3M Interamerica Inc.	7	\$ 933,769.72	\$126,058,912.20
10	Industrial & Technical Supplies Limited	9	\$ 894,653.46	\$120,778,217.10

11	Shekinah Trading	5	\$ 882,432.00	\$119,128,320.00
12	Mac's Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics	26	\$ 871,750.62	\$117,686,333.70
13	Shanghai Channelmed Import & Export Co. Limited	46	\$ 677,212.38	\$91,423,671.30
14	Disposables Limited/ Jamaica Hospital Supplies	25	\$ 523,834.56	\$70,717,665.60
	TOTAL	340	\$22,689,145.47	\$3,063,034,638.45

The National Health Fund is responsible for the procurement, warehousing, distribution and dispensing of pharmaceutical preparations and medical sundries at government-owned health facilities.

- (iii) Automated Border Control Kiosks for the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$737,500.00, to Société Internationale de Télécommunication Aéronautique, on behalf of the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency (PICA), for the procurement of fifteen automated border control kiosks for use at arrival immigration at the Sangster International Airport.

The provision of Advanced Passenger Information (API) electronically, facilitates both faster processing times and enhanced security for border agencies. The API data forms part of an Advanced Passenger Information System that was established by PICA to electronically screen all passengers against immigration Watchlists. This allows PICA, in collaboration with other law enforcement officers, to detect persons of interest locally and internationally as part of a risk management approach.

- (iv) General Insurance Coverage and Brokerage Services for the period 2020-2023 for the National Water Commission

Cabinet approved the award of a contract to Marathon Insurance Brokers Limited for the provision of general insurance coverage and brokerage services for the National Water Commission (NWC), for a period of three (3) years (2020/2021 to 2022/2023), with the premium for the 2020/2021 contract year being:

- 1) US\$1,680,964.00 exclusive of General Consumption Tax (GCT) for the United States Dollars Denominated Risks; and
- 2) J\$22,012,957.00 exclusive of GCT for the Jamaican Dollar Denominated Risks.

The NWC has a diverse and spatially separated set of assets which it protects with a risk management program including the purchase of commercial insurance. The insurance program purchased is a catastrophic one with the NWC making provisions for small losses.

2. Legislation

The Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2020

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "Revenue Administration (Amendment) Act, 2020" to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to implement:

- (i) the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to improve international tax compliance by enabling the exchange of financial and other tax information among the State parties to the Convention; and
- (ii) the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), to create a single platform for the administration of the automatic exchange of tax information under the Convention.

3. Board Appointments

(i) Aeronautical Telecommunications Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of Mr. Horace Bryson and Ms. Charmaine Walker to the Board with effect from 26 May 2020 to 12 May 2022, when the tenure of the Board will expire.

(ii) Charities Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Appeal Tribunal for a period of two (2) years from 26 May 2020 to 25 May 2022:

- 1) Justice Mr. Ferdinand Algernon Smith (Retired) – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Robert Collie;
- 3) Mrs. Yvette Sutherland-Reid;
- 4) Mr. Nigel Jones; and
- 5) Ms. Velma Ricketts.

(iii) Companies Office of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Advisory Board for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 26 May 2020 to 25 May 2022:

- 1) Mr. Peter Goldson – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Michelle Parkins;
- 3) Mr. Donovan Walker;
- 4) Mr. Eric Hosin;
- 5) Ms. Andrea Cowan;
- 6) Ms. Kathryn Lewis; and
- 7) Mrs. Judith Ramlogan.

(iv) Consumer Affairs Commission

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

- 1) Mr. Donovan White – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mrs. Dorothy Carter-Bradford – **Deputy Chairperson**;
- 3) Mr. Ian Walters;
- 4) Mr. Collin Virgo;
- 5) Mr. Moreland Wilson;
- 6) Ms. Dolsie Allen;
- 7) Ms. Daenia Ashpole;

- 8) Ms. Michelle Parkins;
- 9) Mr. Vernon Darby;
- 10) Ms. Joyce Young; and
- 11) Mr. Damali Thomas.

(v) Appeal Tribunal for the Department of Cooperatives and Friendly Societies

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Appeal Tribunal for a period of two (2) years with effect from 26 May 2020 to 25 May 2022:

- 1) Mrs. Yvette Sutherland-Reid – **Chairperson**;
- 2) Mr. Franklyn Taylor; and
- 3) Mr. Stanley Moore.

(vi) Jamaica Business Development Corporation, the Micro Investment Development Agency and the Self Start Fund

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 26 May 2020 to 25 May 2022:

- 1) Dr. William Lawrence – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Stephen Fong-Yee – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Mr. Oral Shaw;
- 4) Ms. Yvonne Davis;
- 5) Ms. Keisha Lewis;
- 6) Mr. Cleveland Stewart;
- 7) Ms. Adonia Chin;
- 8) Ms. Valerie Veira;
- 9) Mr. Hugh Johnson;
- 10) Mr. Donovan Wignal;
- 11) Ms. Ida-Gaye Warburton; and
- 12) Ms. Jacqueline Sharp.

(vii) Jamaica Intellectual Property Office

Cabinet approved the following persons to be appointed to the Board for a period of two years, with effect from 25 June 2020 to 24 June 2022:

- 1) Mr. Peter Goldson – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Stephen Cross;
- 3) Ms. Carol Newman;
- 4) Mr. Ewan Simpson;
- 5) Ms. Lydia Rose;
- 6) Mr. Hugh Faulkner;
- 7) Dr. Dennis Howard;
- 8) Mrs. Charmaine Creary-Beckford;
- 9) Mr. Lloyd McLean;
- 10) Mr. Ray-St Michael Williams;
- 11) Ms. Beverley Lashley;
- 12) Ms. Michelle Parkins; and
- 13) Ms. Lilyclaire Bellamy.

(viii) Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation

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

- 1) Mr. Simon Roberts – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Courtney Cole – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Ms. Jennifer Williams;
- 4) Mr. Leo Williams;
- 5) Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa;
- 6) Mr. Vermont Murray;
- 7) Mrs. A Michele Morgan-Evans;
- 8) Mr. Lynden Nugent;
- 9) Mrs. Joan Thomas Edwards; and
- 10) Ms. Sharonmae Shirley.

(ix) Standards Council

Cabinet approved the following persons to be appointed to the Standards Council, with effect from 26 May 2020 to 31 October 2020, when the tenure of the Council will expire:

- 1) Mr. Philip Armstrong – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Michelle Parkins – **Vice Chairperson**;
- 3) Mr. Hopeton Heron; and
- 4) Mr. Michael Pryce.

4. Jamaica's Information System for Health National Plan of Action, 2017-2021

Cabinet approved Jamaica's Information System for Health National Plan of Action 2017-2021.

Given the numerous challenges associated with the current paper-based health information management system and inadequate staffing across the sector to effectively manage the files; digital transformation is paramount. This proposed system allows for benefits such as continuity of patient's care through the process of records linkages and Information Technology System Interoperability; the reduction in paper usage; enhanced security and patient's confidentiality within health care facilities; and improved data quality throughout the health care delivery system.

5. The Opening Up of the Tourism Sector

Cabinet gave approval for:

- (i) the partial reopening of Jamaica's borders over the period 1 to 15 June 2020 to allow for the repatriation of Jamaicans; and
- (ii) the phased reopening for the tourism sector and other international travellers as of 15 June 2020, and the full reopening by 1 July 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism in particular has been severely impacted as travel and related industries almost came to a halt; the Caribbean remained one of the most tourism dependent regions; and tourism is a key industry to the Jamaican economy, driving the highest levels of foreign exchange earnings and foreign direct investments. Information

was provided on the development of comprehensive protocols to be reviewed by the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; the fundamental tourism resilience protocols; and the need to notify the airlines of a timeline for the reopening of the country's borders so that they could schedule flights to the country.

6. Report

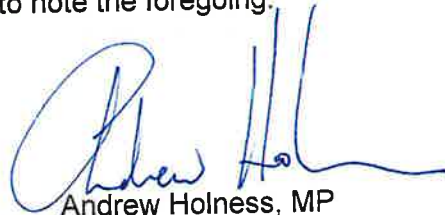
Protocols for Controlled Re-entry of Jamaican Nationals Overseas Within the Framework of National Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade in connection with the protocols for the controlled re-entry of Jamaican nationals overseas within the framework of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report informed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and its Missions overseas had been providing consular assistance to Jamaican nationals who had been stranded abroad, as a result of measures imposed by the Government of Jamaica under The Disaster Risk Management Order, 2020, in an effort to contain the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

The report further informed that the Ministry had sought to identify persons in the major Diaspora centres whose special circumstances called for steps to be taken to facilitate their return to Jamaica at the earliest opportunity. The report also informed that the assistance provided by the Ministry, included the identification of accommodation, subsistence for food, provision of care packages, psychosocial support, medical support such as prescriptions and medication with the assistance of Diaspora medical doctors.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

23 July 2020