

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 12 OCTOBER 2020

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 12 October 2020:

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Establishment of the Steering Committee for the National College for Educational Leadership;
5. Introduction of Premium Service Packages by the Registrar General's Department;
6. Essential Oils Incubator Project of the Jamaica Business Development Corporation;
7. Hosting of the Made in Americas Global Services Summit in October 2021; and
8. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn

1. Contracts

(i) Revised Professional Fees for the New Houses of Parliament Design Project

Cabinet gave approval for:

- (i) the revised professional fees required for design consultancy for the preparation of detailed designs, statutory approvals, tendering and construction administration for the New Houses of Parliament Design Project which comprised of: the Parliament building; landscape and civil works for the National Heroes Park; other technical services; 3.5% project management fees for the Urban Development Corporation; and 5% contingency amounting to J\$1,525,096.00, including 15% General Consumption Tax or US\$10,517,904.00; and
- (ii) the inclusion in the Supplementary Estimates for the 2020/2021 budget of J\$550,428,000.00, approximately US\$3,796,055.00, in order to finance the contractual activities for the New Houses of Parliament Design Project for this financial year.

The building will be able to accommodate 150 Members of Parliament and a separate chamber will be built to host Senate sessions. Additionally, several offices will be included in the construction of the Parliament.

(ii) Variation of Contract for the Rehabilitation Programme – Phase 1, Priority (Emergency) Works – 10th Floor and Roof Repairs at the Cornwall Regional Hospital

Cabinet approved variations to a contract for the provision of works for Phase 1, priority (Emergency) works repairs to the 10th floor of the Cornwall Regional Hospital, to M&M Jamaica Limited, as follows:

Item	Description	Variation Amount (\$)	Contract Sum (\$)	% of the Original Contract Sum
Original Contract Sum			96,312,485.20	
1.	Variation Order 001A	11,875,037.49		12.23%
2.	Variation Order 001B	32,907,475.33		34.17%
3.	Variation Order 002	10,052,586.65		10.44%
4.	Variation Order 003	29,775,080.94		30.92%
5.	Variation Order 004	27,157,220.37		28.20%
Total Variations		111,767,400.75	111,767,400.75	116.05%
Adjusted Contract Sum			208,079,885.95	

Several unforeseen circumstances have led to multiple adjustments to the scope of works and, as such, have necessitated these variations.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Early Childhood Commission for the Financial Year 2018/2019;
- (ii) National Export-Import Bank of Jamaica for the Financial Year 2019/2020; and
- (iii) Ocho Rios Commercial Centre Limited for the Financial Years 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

3. Board Appointments

(i) National Water Commission

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr Michael Shaw – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Steven Fong-Yee – **Deputy Chairman**;
- 3) Mr Baron Stewart;
- 4) Mr. Stephen Edwards;
- 5) Mr. Gavin Jordan;
- 6) Mr. Tyrone Robinson;
- 7) Ms. Adonia Chin;
- 8) Ms. Opal Whyte; and
- 9) Ms. Marion Sophia Brown.

(ii) Petrojam Ethanol Limited

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Directors for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2022, as under:

- 1) Mr. Kevin Richards- **Chairman**;
- 2) Professor Ishenkumba Kahwa – **Deputy Chairman**; and
- 3) Ms. Kaydian Smith Newton.

(iii) Port Authority of Jamaica

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr. Alok Jain – **Chairman**;
- 2) Dr. Kathy-Ann Brown;
- 3) Mr. Wayne McKenzie;

- 4) Mrs. Velma Ricketts-Walker;
- 5) Mr. Lyttleton Shirley;
- 6) Mr. Mark Hart;
- 7) Mr. Jerome Smalling;
- 8) Mr. Alston Douglas;
- 9) Mr. Edward Gabbidon; and
- 10) Professor the Honourable Gordon Shirley, OJ.

(iv) South East Regional Health Authority Board of Management

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Management for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr. Wentworth Charles – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Angus Gordon;
- 3) Mr. Shantez Stewart;
- 4) Mr. Omar Francis;
- 5) Mr. Sheldon Smith;
- 6) Mr. Andrew Bellamy;
- 7) Ms. Shereece Rowe;
- 8) Ms. Kathy Smith;
- 9) Mr. Willard Brown;
- 10) Ms. Tosha Schwapp;
- 11) Ms. Maureen Golding, Regional Director, South East Regional Health Authority – *ex officio*;
- 12) Dr. Natalie Whyllie, Senior Medical Officer, Kingston Public Hospital – *ex officio*;
- 13) Mrs. Colleen Wright, Chief Executive Officer, Kingston Public Hospital – *ex officio*;
- 14) Dr. Sandra Chambers, Regional Technical Director, South East Regional Health Authority – *ex officio*; and
- 15) Dr. Karen Webster Kerr, Nominee, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness – *ex officio*.

(v) Southern Regional Health Authority (SRHA) Board of Management

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Management for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr. Wayne Chen – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Dave Powell;
- 3) Mrs. Lorraine Green-Mason;
- 4) Mr. Marcus Greenwood;
- 5) Mr. Stafford Haughton;
- 6) Mr. Albert Williams;
- 7) Mr. Winston Maragh;
- 8) Mr. Omar Miller;
- 9) Dr. Lloyd Reynolds;
- 10) Mr. Michael Stern;
- 11) Mr. Michael Bent, Regional Director, Southern Regional Health Authority – *ex officio*;
- 12) Dr. Everton McIntosh, Senior Medical Officer, Mandeville Regional Hospital – *ex officio*;
- 13) Mr. Alwyn Miller, Chief Executive Officer, Mandeville Regional Hospital – *ex officio*;

- 14) Dr. Vitillus Holder, Regional Technical Director, Southern Regional Health Authority – *ex officio*; and
- 15) Dr. Naydene Williams, Nominee, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness – *ex officio*.

(vi) Western Regional health Authority Board of Management

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board of Management for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr. Eric Clarke – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Allaine Harvey;
- 3) Mr. Dwight Crawford;
- 4) Mr. Dennis Meadows;
- 5) Mr. Lincoln Dunkley;
- 6) Mr. Richard Vernon;
- 7) Mrs. Candis Craig;
- 8) Ms. Vivette Tulloch;
- 9) Mr. Norman Reid;
- 10) Mr. Leroy Williams;
- 11) Mr. Errol Greene, Regional Director, Western Regional Health Authority – *ex officio*;
- 12) Mr. Derek Harvey, Senior Medical Officer, Cornwall Regional Hospital – *ex officio*;
- 13) Mrs. Charmaine Williams-Beckford, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Cornwall Regional Hospital – *ex officio*;
- 14) Dr. Dianna Campbell Stennett, Regional Technical Director, Western Regional Health Authority – *ex officio*; and
- 15) Ms. Kadian Birch, Nominee, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Wellness – *ex officio*.

4. Establishment of the Steering Committee for the National College for Educational Leadership

Cabinet approved the establishment of the Steering Committee for the National College for Educational Leadership (NCEL) to provide support and technical guidance for the operations of the NCEL and make recommendations regarding the performance management framework of NCEL.

Cabinet also approved the appointment of the following persons to the Steering Committee for a period of one (1) year, with effect from 12 October 2020 to 11 October 2021, as under:

- 1) Mr. Byron Farquharson;
- 2) Mrs. Mitzie Harris-Dillon;
- 3) Dr. Donna Powell Wilson;
- 4) Dr. Joan Hernandez;
- 5) Mr. Cheslan Douglas;
- 6) Mr. Linton Weir;
- 7) Ms. L. Cecille Palmer;
- 8) Mrs. Maureen Dwyer;
- 9) Mr. Calvin Harris;
- 10) Mrs. Vivienne Johnson; and
- 11) Dr. Taneisha Ingleton.

The NCEL currently operates under the powers of the Minister of Education, Youth and Information, guided by The Education Act of 1965, but will eventually have its own legal identity under the appropriate governance arrangements for public sector entities.

5. Introduction of Premium Service Packages by the Registrar General's Department

Cabinet approved the introduction of the following premium service packages and attendant fees by the Registrar General's Department (RGD):

- (i) a same day service for the processing of Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates, where applicable;
- (ii) a next day service for the processing of Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates, where applicable; and
- (iii) the fee structures of \$7,500 for same day service; and \$6,000 for next day service, respectively.

Cabinet also approved the amendment to The Registration (Births and Deaths) (Alteration of Fees) Order, 2015 to the facilitate these services and fees.

The introduction of same day and next day service packages are a response to the request of consumers. The proposed services will be in addition to the existing express service already provided by the RGD.

6. Essential Oils Incubator Project of the Jamaica Business Development Corporation

Cabinet gave approval for the Essential Oils Incubator Project to be included in the Public Sector Investment Programme.

The Essential Oils Incubator Project would be executed by the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, which would collaborate with various partners/stakeholders in the public and private sectors, for the provision of investment, skills development, and jobs. The objectives of the project include the production of five essential oils and the creation of 6,000 jobs within four (4) years; and the potential increase in export earnings of approximately US\$500 million in the next four (4) years.

7. Hosting of the Made in Americas Global Services Summit, October 2021

Cabinet approved Jamaica hosting the Made in Americas Global Services Summit in October 2021.

The primary objective for hosting the conference is to drive new investments and positive brand awareness about the information technology enabled services sector in Jamaica. Jamaica will leverage an established event brand to the benefit of its promotional effort in the outsourcing sector.

8. Reports

(i) Quarterly Update from the National Competitiveness Council

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce in connection with a quarterly update from the National Competitiveness Council (NCC).

The report informed that in July 2018, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) presented the Jamaica Doing Business Reform (DBR) Memorandum which assessed the business environment of Jamaica within the context of global regulatory trends; and made recommendations for implementation.

The report further informed that implementation of the recommendations would move Jamaica in the position of Top 10 DBR; and the reforms had been put forward as the Business Environment Reform Agenda (BERA).

The report also informed of the implementation of a new reporting structure which would involve each implementing Ministry, department and agency reporting its progress, the next steps and interventions required for each reform on a quarterly basis; the five Technical Working Groups (TWGs) established to support the ten indicator areas of the DBR; and the Communications Subcommittee of the NCC that was activated in March 2020 to undertake a communication blitz focused on the new reform areas.

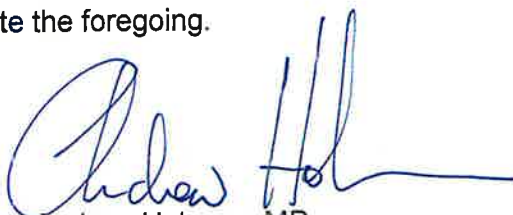
(ii) One Tablet/Laptop Per Child Initiative-Bridging the Digital Divide

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the One Tablet/Laptop per Child Initiative-Bridging the Digital Divide.

The report informed that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools in Jamaica were closed on 13 March 2020; approximately 600,000 students in 3,639 public and private educational institutions had been impacted; and distance learning strategies were implemented to minimise the disruption to teaching and learning during the period of school closure.

The report also informed that the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) had estimated that 45% of families did not have access to devices or reliable Internet services; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had posited that disruptions to instructional time in the classroom could severely impact the ability of children to learn, and the longer marginalised children were out of school, it was less likely they would return; prolonged school closures would impact students and, in some cases, cause regression academically and socially; and to mitigate these risks, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information was taking the necessary steps to improve distance learning for this academic year.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

11 January 2021