

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 26 OCTOBER 2020

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

1. Contracts;
2. Annual Reports;
3. Board Appointments;
4. Divestment of Silver Sands Estates Limited;
5. Sale of Land Owned by the National Water Commission at Colbeck Plantation, St Catherine, to the National Housing Trust;
6. Participation in the International Civil Aviation Organisation Virtual Meeting for Ministers of Health, Tourism and Transportation and Civil Aviation Authorities;
7. Approach to Face-to-Face Reopening of Schools 2020/2021;
8. Voucher Incentive Programme 2020/2021 for Needy Students Not on Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH); and
9. Reports

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

- (i) Middleton Jamaica Agricultural Society Rural Feeder Road Rehabilitation, St Thomas  
Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$60,565,096.54 to Contraxx Enterprises Limited, on behalf of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), for the rehabilitation of the Middleton Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) Rural Feeder Road in St. Thomas.

The rehabilitation of the road will benefit the residents who reside in Middleton as well as neighbouring communities that use it as a through road. The adverse conditions of the existing road have affected the general population of Middleton, in particular children, the elderly, pregnant women and farmers.

- (ii) Security Guard Services for the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts

Cabinet approved the award of contract in the amount of \$69,814,372.50 to King Alarm Services Limited, for the provision of security guard services at the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts (EMCVPA).

The contractor will be required to provide security services to the EMCVPA, including date duties, roving duties, jostle management, supervision, radio control, close circuit cameras, response team and meetings.

(iii) Follow-on Contract – Maintenance and Support of the Jamaica Passport Issuing and Control System and Procurement of Blank Jamaican Passports

Cabinet approved the award of follow-on contract in the amount of US\$16,314,558.00 to the Canadian Bank Note Company Limited, for the provision of, maintenance and support services for the Jamaican Passport Issuing and Control System (JPICS), and the procurement of one million, one hundred and fifty thousand (1,150,000) blank Electronic Passports (e-Passports).

The Canadian Bank Note Limited (CBN) installed and configured the JPICS in 2001 and is the proprietary owner of the application. The CBN has exclusive rights to the system and therefore has been the sole supplier for Jamaican Machine-Readable Passports (MRP) since 2001.

The procurement of 1,150,000 blank e-Passports from CBN is based on projections that approximately 230,000 passports will be issued annually.

(iv) Follow-on Contract – Provision of Integration, Maintenance and Support Services for Automated Border Control Kiosks

Cabinet approved the award of a follow-on contract in the amount of US\$1,203,800.00 to Société Internationale de Télécommunication Aéronautique, for the provision of integration, maintenance and support services for fifty (50) Automated Border Control (ABC) kiosks at the Sangster international Airport (SIA) and the Norman Manley International Airport (NMIA).

The ABC kiosks are utilised to grant entry to arriving passengers through the use of Advance Passenger Information (API) as well as facial recognition technology, via an interface with PICA's Border Management System. The provision of API electronically facilitates both faster processing times and enhanced security for border agencies.

(v) Establishment of a Station Records Management System for the Jamaica Constabulary Force

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$587,814.00 to Northgate Public Services, for the establishment of a Station Records Management (SRMS) for the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF).

A SRMS will improve the overall case management capabilities of the JCF and support the transition to a paperless police station.

2. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Agro-Investment Corporation for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (ii) e-Learning Jamaica Company Limited for the Financial Year 2019/2020; and
- (iii) Water Resources Authority for Financial Years 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

### 3. Board Appointments

#### (i) Commission of Strata Corporations

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years from 26 October 2020 to 25 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr. Andrew James – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Kemoy Lindsay;
- 3) Mr. Kevin Richards;
- 4) Ms. Carolyn Chuck;
- 5) Mrs. Rose Bennett-Cooper;
- 6) Mrs. Marvalyn Campbell;
- 7) Mr. Karl Vendryes;
- 8) Mr. Howard Johnson, Jr.;
- 9) Mrs. Authrine Scarlett;
- 10) Mr. Richard Ferdinand; and
- 11) Mrs. Michelle Watkis-Robinson.

#### (ii) Real Estate Board

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years from 26 October 2020 to 25 October 2023, as under:

- 1) Mr. Andrew James – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Kemoy Lindsay;
- 3) Mr. Kevin Richards;
- 4) Ms. Carolyn Chuck;
- 5) Mrs. Rose Bennett-Cooper;
- 6) Mrs. Marvalyn Campbell;
- 7) Mr. Karl Vendryes;
- 8) Mr. Howard Johnson, Jr.;
- 9) Mrs. Authrine Scarlett;
- 10) Mr. Richard Ferdinand; and
- 11) Mrs. Michelle Watkis-Robinson.

#### (iii) Electricity Appeal Tribunal

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

- 1) Honourable Mr. Justice Lloyd Hibbert, CD (retired) – **Chairman**;
- 2) Dr. Michael Witter; and
- 3) Mr. James Moss-Solomon.

#### (iv) Teacher Appeals Tribunal

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Appeals Tribunal for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 26 October 2020 to 25 October 2022, as under:

- 1) Honourable Mr. Justice Mahadev Dukharan, CD (retired) – **Chairman**;
- 2) Ms. Dorothy Lightbourne, CD, QC; and
- 3) Mr. Cyril Lebert.

4) Divestment of Silver Sands Estates Limited

Cabinet gave approval for the divestment of Silver Sands Estate Limited (SSEL) as follows:

- (i) the transfer of the real estate assets of SSEL to the Silver Sands Cottage Owners Association (SSCOA) including those properties which form part of the common areas in the Silver Sands Development;
- (ii) the sale of the undeveloped lots on the open market; and the establishment of a formula or scheme to allocate/reserve properties to be sold to public servants;
- (iii) the leasing of the clubhouse, marine park and jetty to the SSCOA;
- (iv) the transfer of the shares of Harmonisation Limited in SSEL to SSCOA at the expiration of the proposed lease of the clubhouse, and the sale of all remaining assets of SSEL in accordance with mutually agreed terms between the parties; and in the event the proposed lease did not materialise, then the clubhouse together with the remaining assets will be offered for sale on the open market or transferred to Harmonisation Limited; and
- (v) the establishment of a policy by the Chancery and Protocol Division of the Office of the Prime Minister, subject to the approval of the Cabinet, for the use of the villas owned by Harmonisation, which would be rented to public servants, when not rented by a third party, and maintenance arrangement for the villas.

SSEL, that currently owns the properties at Silver Sands, in Duncans Trelawny, is a subsidiary of Harmonisation Limited which is a Government company registered under the Companies Act, and Harmonisation is owned jointly by the Development Bank of Jamaica Limited (DBJ) and the National Housing Trust (NHT).

5) Sale of Land Owned by the National Water Commission at Colbeck Plantation, St Catherine, to the National Housing Trust

Cabinet approved the sale of 20.03 hectares (49.5 acres) of land, registered at Volume 1186 Folio 626 being 20.03 hectares (49.5 acres), owned by the National Water Commission at Colbeck Plantation in St Catherine, to the National Housing Trust (NHT) in the amount of \$140 million.

The sale is to complement lands already owned by the NHT for housing development. The monies from the sale of the property will support the collaboration between the NWC and the NHT to improve water supply infrastructure.

6) Jamaica's Participation in the International Civil Aviation Organisation Virtual Meeting for Ministers of Health, Tourism and Transportation and Civil Aviation Authorities

Cabinet approved the participation of a delegation, including the Minister of Transport and Mining, the Minister of Health and Wellness and the Minister of Tourism in the virtual meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 28 October 2020 to Thursday, 29 October 2020.

The meeting would focus on the recovery of the air traffic sector taking into consideration the nuances of each country.

7) Approach to Face-to-Face Reopening of Schools 2020/2021

Cabinet approved the proposal by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information for the reopening of schools for face-to-face teaching and learning in accordance with the Disaster Risk Management (Enforcement Measures) (No.14) Order, 2020 under the Disaster Risk Management Act for the academic year 2020/2021.

Schools designated as low-risk are to be re-opened, undertaking a phased approach for face-to-face reopening. A pilot is to commence after discussions with principals of the selected schools, depending on the readiness of each school for the face-to-face approach. The pilot will assess how schools manage the logistics of operating the various modalities of teaching and learning simultaneously.

8) Voucher Incentive Programme 2020/2021 for Needy Students Not on Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)

Cabinet approved the Voucher Incentive Programme which seeks to provide parents/guardians of an estimated 36,000 students, who are not on the Programme for Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) but are near poor, with a voucher toward the purchase of a tablet or laptop computer to enable full participation in the digital teaching and learning environment.

Approximately 600,000 students in 3,639 public and private educational institutions have been impacted by the interruption to face-to-face teaching and learning. The Voucher Incentive Programme is a response to the COVID-19-related challenges and more broadly to support Jamaica's Vision 2030 Goal #1 whereby "Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential"; and to facilitate the national outcomes of the country providing world-class education and training, being a technology-enabled society and having internationally competitive industry structures.

9) Reports

(i) External Examinations Results 2020: Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination, Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate, and City and Guilds

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information in connection with the 2020 external examinations results for the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE), the Caribbean Secondary Certificate (CSEC) and City & Guilds.

The report informed that the 2020 external examinations were unprecedented in large part due to the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic; as with many school systems and examining bodies around the world, both the preparation for and administration of the CAPE, CSEC and City & Guilds examinations were impacted by disruptions caused by the pandemic; and the 2020 external examinations were, on the part of both candidates and examining bodies alike, prepared and administered against a backdrop of uncertainty and within a context of disruption to normal activities.

The report also informed that on the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) made the policy decision to offer a modified examination process; with exception to the modified process where candidates were required to complete additional components; and the utilisation of the e-Testing modality (online and offline) to reduce examinations administration processing time which resulted in the shortest turn-around time for marking and the release of examination results.

The report further informed that the preliminary report and analysis of CESC examinations showed that 76.5% of candidates were awarded grades 1 to 3; 92% of candidates who sat CAPE Unit 1 examinations attained grades 1 to V; there was a 93% pass rate for students who sat CAPE Unit 2; and the overall rates for students who sat the City & Guilds examinations, it was 67% for Mathematics, and 74% for English, respectively. The report provided information on the comparison limitation; the overview of the 2020 external examinations results; the concerns of CXC stakeholders and the investigation of the Independent Review Team; and the recommendations of the Independent Review Team.

(ii) Proposed Interment in National Heroes Park of the Honourable Frederick "Toots" Hibbert, OJ and the Development of a Proposal for the Establishment of a Memorial Park for the Interment of Cultural Icons

Cabinet considered a report from the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport in connection with the Interment in the National Heroes Park of the Honourable Frederick "Toots" Hibbert, OJ, and the development of a proposal for the establishment of a Memorial Park for the interment of Cultural Icons.

The report informed of a decision taken in 2007 that no further burials would take place in the National Heroes Park except for the interment of persons who served as National Hero, Governor-General or Prime Minister; and the decision was in response to related requests for the interment of Cultural Icons and other well-known Jamaicans upon their death. The report also informed that it was later discovered that there was one burial space available in the relevant section of the National Heroes Park, the family of the Honourable Frederick "Toots" Hibbert, OJ had approached the Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport seeking permission of the Government to have his remains interred in the National Heroes Park; and that the last burial spot had become available and would be used for his interment.

The report further informed of the intention of the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport to develop a proposal for the establishment of a Memorial Park for the interment of Jamaica's Cultural Icons.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness, MP  
Prime Minister

11 January 2021