

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 15 MARCH 2021

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 15 March 2021:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Divestment of Property Located at Llandoverly, St. Ann;
6. Designation of the Black River Protected Area; and
7. Implementation of Mandatory Medical Insurance for Persons Visiting Jamaica.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Retail Fuel Supplies to Ministries, Departments and Agencies

Cabinet approved the establishment of a framework agreement at fixed margins, with eligible petroleum marketing companies, for the supply of retail fuel to Ministries, departments and agencies for the new two-year contract period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023.

Biennially, the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, on behalf of the Government, invites Petroleum Marketing Companies to participate in a negotiated process to arrive at the best prices for Ministries, departments and agencies.

(ii) Procurement of Handheld Devices and Electronic Voter Identification Solution

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,621,172.88, inclusive of General Consumption Tax, to Thales DIS Mexico S.A. de C.V., for the procurement of handheld devices and electronic voter identification solution for the Electoral Office of Jamaica (EOJ).

The procurement of Handheld Devices and a modern Elector Voter Identification Solution will replace the outdated system and reduce any semblance of irregularities.

2. Legislation

(i) The Tobacco Industry Regulation (Validation and Indemnity) (Repeal) Act, 2021

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled “The Tobacco Industry Regulation (Validation and Indemnity) (Repeal) Act, 2021” to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to validate and confirm all acts in relation to the winding-up of the Tobacco Industry Control Authority done in good faith and inadvertent as to the absence of statutory authority, and indemnify persons against liability arising out of their carrying out

of such acts. The Bill will also repeal the Tobacco Industry Regulation Act and provide for connected matters.

(ii) The Disaster Risk Management (Amendment) Act, 2021

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The Disaster Risk Management (Amendment) Act, 2021" to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to strengthen the provisions of the Act in the wake of the outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus COVID-19) in order to combat any conceivable calamitous event; and to amend the definition of 'disaster' to include events such as a hazardous substance incident, a nuclear or radiation emergency, as well as a pandemic.

3.

Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Anti-Dumping and Subsidies Commission for the Financial Year 2015/2016;
- (ii) National Irrigation Commission Limited for Financial Years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020; and
- (iii) Rural Water Supply Limited for the Financial Year 2018/2019.

4.

Board Appointments

(i) Cannabis Licensing Authority

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Kevin Goulbourne, as an *ex officio* member of the Authority, with effect from 15 March 2021 to 28 January 2024, when the tenure of the Authority will expire.

(ii) Maxfield Park Children's Home

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 15 March 2021 to 14 March 2024, as under:

1) Ms. Nadeen Spence – **Chairperson**;

2) Mr. Treneil Lowe;

3) Mrs. Pauline Beaumont;

4) Mrs. Kemesha Swaby;

5) Mr. Kevin O'Brien Chang;

6) Mr. Jonathan Watt;

7) Mr. Sudjae Boswell;

8) Ms. Gail Abrahams;

9) Ms. Rachel McDonald;

10) Ms. Shakeera Douglas;

11) Mr. Darren Peart;

12) Ms. Briana Russell;

13) Mr. Kadian Francis;

14) Ms. Hertha Beckmann;

15) Ms. Jameek Burrell;

16) Ms. Sida Smith; and

17) Mr. Robert Williams.

(iii) 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 15 March 2021 to 14 March 2024, as under:

- 1) Professor Halden Morris – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Wayne Robinson;
- 3) Mr. Clement Radcliffe;
- 4) Ms. Marigold Naar;
- 5) Mr. Rhys Campbell;
- 6) Mrs. Gillian Rowlands;
- 7) Ms. Shanique Plummer;
- 8) Mr. Kirk Brown;
- 9) Mrs. Janice Roxburgh;
- 10) Ms. Keshia Brown;
- 11) Mr. Carlos Curtis;
- 12) Ms. Shieka Walsh;
- 13) Mrs. Delize Williams, Principal/Director, Vocational Training Development Institute – *ex officio*; and
- 14) Two members nominated by the Board.

(iv) Review Tribunal for the Witness Protection

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Review Tribunal for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 15 March 2021 to 14 March 2024, as under:

- 1) The Honourable Mr. Justice Mahadev Dukharan, CD (Retired) – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Glenmore Hinds; and
- 3) Ms. Doreen Dietrich.

5. Divestment of Property Located at Llandoverly, St. Ann

Cabinet approved the sale of the 457.07-acre property owned by the National Insurance Fund, located at Llandoverly, Salem in St. Ann to the National Housing Trust.

The National Housing Trust expressed interest in acquiring the 457.07-acre property to develop approximately 2,000 housing solutions, with the target market being hotel workers.

6. Designation of the Black River Protected Area

Cabinet gave approval for the designation of the Black River landscape/seascape as a protected area under section 5(1)(b) of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act, 1991. Cabinet also approved the issuance of drafting instructions to the Chief Parliamentary Counsel for the preparation of an Order designating the Black River Protected Area.

The proposed Black River Protected Area is located in the parish of St. Elizabeth, between the towns of Black River and Santa Cruz, with an approximate size of 207.7 square kilometres (20,767 hectares). Its main components are the Black River Upper Morass, Black River Lower Morass, Parrottee Great Morass, YS Corridor, Malcom Bay mangroves, and a coastal and marine area. The designation of the area as a protected area will help to preserve the natural

and cultural heritage of the area which provide habitats for wildlife and supports sustainable livelihoods.

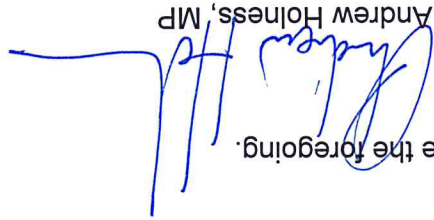
Mandatory Medical Insurance for Persons Visiting Jamaica

7.

Cabinet gave approval for the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) to be the coordinating entity for the mandatory medical insurance and health logistics coverage for holders of foreign passports who are visiting Jamaica. Cabinet also gave approval for the JTB to undertake a competitive bidding process to identify suitable providers of such medical insurance.

The resumption of safe travel is critical for health as well as economic sustainability. The availability of medical insurance and emergency evacuation are important parameters for the resumption of international travel; and medical insurance coverage will provide visitors with confidence in the destination and protect the public health care system.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.


Andrew Holness, MP
Prime Minister
29 May 2021