

CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 20 SEPTEMBER 2021

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 September 2021:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Expansion of Programmes providing Devices for the Education Sector; and
6. Government of Jamaica Medium-Term Strategic Priorities 2022/2023 – 2025/2026

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Procurement of Antiretroviral Drugs

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$1,696,637.50 or J\$234,135,975.00, excluding General Consumption Tax to Mylan Labs Limited, for the procurement of antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for a period of twelve (12) months.

Antiretroviral drugs are procured annually in accordance with the local treatment guidelines in collaboration with the International Treatment Guidelines prepared and disseminated by the World Health Organization and the Centre for Disease Control (WHO/CDC).

(ii) Construction of Parking Area and Retaining Wall, Cornwall Regional Hospital Quadrants (Phase 2) – Western Regional Health Authority

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of \$187,176,970.00 to Rogers Land Development Limited, for the provision of material and labour for the construction of the parking area and retaining wall at the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) Quadrants (Phase 2) for a period of eight (8) months.

Upon completion of the Parking Area, approximately one hundred (100) parking spaces will become available. The area should adequately satisfy both Western Regional Health Authority (WRHA) and CRH facilities parking needs and is expected to be established as permanent parking.

(iii) Canteen Concessionaire Services for Petrojam Limited

Cabinet approved the award of a contract by Petrojam Limited in the amount of \$213,324,201.54 to Mother's Enterprise Limited, for the provision of canteen concessionaire services for the period of two (2) years.

The concessionaire shall operate a Petrojam-owned canteen facility on Petrojam's premises, using the allocated area for the supply of basic meals, beverages and other items on a 24 hours per day, seven (7) days per week basis.

2. Legislation

The International Corporate and Trust Services (Change of Name and Amendment) Act, 2021

Cabinet gave approval for the Bill entitled "The International Corporate and Trust Services (Change of Name and Amendment) Act, 2021" to be introduced into the Houses of Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Act to:

- (i) regulate domestic trust service providers and domestic corporate service providers and change the name of the Act to reflect the foregoing;
- (ii) incorporate provisions which serve to deter the use of business operations under the Act for the purpose of money laundering, the financing of terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- (iii) require service providers to observe customer due diligence requirements, maintain accurate records and systems of internal controls; and
- (iv) provide for connected matters.

3. Annual Reports

Cabinet noted the Annual Reports for the:

- (i) Casino Gaming Commission for the Financial Year 2020/2021; and
- (ii) Jamaica Mortgage Bank for the Financial Year 2020/2021.

4. Board Appointments

(i) Bank of Jamaica (Supervisory Committee)

Cabinet approved the provision of the following nominations to the Governor-General for appointment to the Supervisory Committee of the Bank of Jamaica for a period of five (5) years, with effect from 21 August 2021 to 20 August 2026, as under:

- 1) Mr. Richard Byles – **Chairman**, Governor, BOJ – ex-officio;
- 2) Dr. Wayne Robinson, Senior Deputy Governor, BOJ – ex-officio;
- 3) Ms. Maurene Simms, Deputy Governor, BOJ – ex-officio;
- 4) Ms. Shirley-Ann Eaton; and
- 5) Professor David Tennant.

(ii) Culture, Health, Arts, Sports and Education Fund

Cabinet approved the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 20 September 2021 to 19 September 2024, as under:

- 1) Mr. Omar Frith – **Chairman**;
- 2) Mr. Bindley Sangster;
- 3) Mr. Hidran McKulsky;
- 4) Mrs. Nicole McLaren Campbell;

- 5) Mr. Robert Williams;
- 6) Dr. O'Neal Mundle;
- 7) Mrs. Novelette Howell;
- 8) Mr. Duane Smith;
- 9) Mr. Hugh Croskery;
- 10) Mr. Ian Levy;
- 11) Ms. Merle Donaldson; and
- 12) Ms. Rachael McDonald.

(iii) Overseas Examinations Commission

Cabinet approved the appointment of Dr. Eduardo Ali to the Commission, with effect from 20 September 2021 to 22 November 2023, when the tenure of the Commission will expire.

5. Expansion of Programmes Providing Devices for the Education Sector

Cabinet approved:

- i. the proposed expansion of the Own Your Own Device (OYOD) Voucher Incentive Programme, which now seeks to provide teachers and students who are beneficiaries of the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) and the Social and Economic Recovery and Vaccine (SERVE) programme, respectively, with a voucher towards the purchase of a computing device (laptop or tablet), as a means of enabling full participation in the virtual teaching and learning environment; and
- ii. the provision of vouchers valued at \$30,000.00 or \$90,000.00 each towards the purchase of a tablet or a laptop computer respectively, to 17,311 students on PATH and 7,866 beneficiaries under the SERVE programme, as well as vouchers valued at \$90,000.00 each to approximately 5,000 teachers toward the purchase of a laptop computer.

The proposed expanded OYOD Voucher Incentive Programme is in keeping with the Ministry's support of one device per child initiative. This phase is intended to commence in September 2021.

5. Government of Jamaica Medium-Term Strategic Pricrities 2022/2023 – 2025/2026

Cabinet considered a report from the Cabinet Office in connection with the proposed re-ordering of the existing Government of Jamaica Medium-Term Strategic Priorities and the updated definitions for each Priority.

The Report informed that the proposed re-ordering of the medium-term priorities are: (i) macro-economic stability and fiscal sustainability; (ii) inclusive sustainable economic growth and job creation; (iii) healthcare and wellness; (iv) social protection; (v) rule of law and timely justice outcomes; and (vi) human capital development; and the proposed re-ordering is based on the current initiatives that are being implemented by the Government to manage the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the citizenry and the Jamaican economy.

The Report also informed that the Medium-Term Strategic Priorities are required to be signed off by the Cabinet by the end of September each year to set the context within which Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) engaged the strategic planning and medium-term, results-based budgeting process; and the plans and aligned budgets were to be submitted by 30 November of each year, in keeping with the planning and budget calendar, to be tabled and approved by Parliament before the beginning of the new financial year.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Holness', is written over the printed name.

Andrew Holness, MP

Prime Minister

24/2021