

**CABINET AGENDA ISSUES – 9 FEBRUARY 2015**

The House is asked to note the following matters which were considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 9 February 2015:

1. Contracts;
2. Legislation Matters;
3. Annual Reports;
4. Board Appointments;
5. Implementation of International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001 Quality Management System (QMS); and
6. Reports.

Each matter shall be elaborated on in turn.

1. Contracts

(i) Procurement of X-Ray Films and Chemicals

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of US\$421,889.40 to Health Brands Limited, for the supply of X-ray films and chemicals for a period of one year to public hospitals.

The National Health Fund, in keeping with the Ministry of Health Vital, Essential and Necessary List of Drugs and Medical Supplies, provides X-ray films and chemicals to public hospitals across the island. X-ray technology has been used to assist with identification, diagnosis and treatment of many types of medical conditions.

(ii) Cleaning Services at the Mandeville Regional Hospital

Cabinet gave approval for the award of a three-year contract to Jac-Den Enterprise Company Limited for the provision of cleaning and portering services at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in the sum of J\$167,543,673.48.

The Southern Regional Health Authority utilises the services of a suitable contractor to provide cleaning and portering services at the Mandeville Regional Hospital in order to give members of staff and patients a clean and healthy environment.

(iii) Construction of Classroom Block Extensions at the B.B. Coke and Balaclava High Schools

Cabinet approved the award of a contract in the amount of J\$78,820,792.00 to GM and Associates Limited, to construct an eight-classroom block extension at both the B.B. Coke High School and the Balaclava High School in St. Elizabeth, under the Education System Transformation Programme.

The Government of Jamaica has invested over US\$31 Million in the Education System Transformation Programme, financed in part by loans from the Inter-American Development Bank and World Bank. Under the Infrastructure component of the project, part of the loan is earmarked for the construction of much-needed classrooms at schools across the island. Additional classroom space at the B.B. Coke High School and Balaclava High School in St. Elizabeth is critical, as the schools are currently overcrowded and this has severely impacted the provision of quality education for students.

## 2. Legislation Matters

### (i) The Electricity Act

Cabinet approved for tabling in the Houses of Parliament the Bill entitled "The Electricity Act, 2015."

The Bill seeks to repeal the Electricity Lighting Act and the Regulations made pursuant thereto, and consolidate and modernise the laws relating to the generation, transmission, distribution and supply of electricity.

### (ii) The Income Tax (Amendment) Act

Cabinet approved for tabling in the Houses of Parliament the Bill entitled, "The Income Tax (Amendment) Act, 2015."

The Bill seeks to amend the Act in order to introduce a transfer pricing regime. This regime will provide Jamaica with a substantive and robust anti-avoidance mechanism to ensure its tax jurisdiction over cross-border activities.

## 3. Annual Reports

Cabinet considered the Annual Reports of the:

- (i) Devon House Development Company Limited for the year ended 31 March 2012;
- (ii) Jamaica Bauxite Institute Limited for the years ended 31 March 2012 and 2013;
- (iii) National Library of Jamaica for the year ended 31 March 2011; and
- (iv) Statistical Institute of Jamaica for the year ended 31 March 2014.

These Reports will be tabled in Parliament at a later date.

## 4. Board Appointments

### (i) Airports Authority of Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 13 February 2015 to 12 February 2018:

1. Mr. Dennis Morrison – **Chairman**;
2. Hon. Billy Shagoury;
3. Pastor Neville Wright;
4. Ms. Valerie Simpson;
5. Mr. Neil Lawrence;
6. Ms. Claudette Ramdanie;
7. Dr. Lanie Oakley Williams;

8. Mr. Joseph A. Matalon; and
9. Mr. Earl Richards.

(ii) Financial Services Commission Appeal Tribunal

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Tribunal for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 9 February 2015 to 8 February 2017:

1. Hon. Mdme. Justice Hazel Harris – **Chairman**;
2. Hon. Mr. Justice Algernon Smith;
3. Dr. Densil Williams; and
4. Mrs. Lisa Bell.

(iii) Jamaica Ultimate Tyre Company

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 13 February 2015 to 12 February 2018:

1. Ms. Natalie Dyer – **Chairman**;
2. Mr. Gordon Baldie;
3. Mrs. Odia Reid-Clarke;
4. Mr. Kenry Jackson;
5. Mr. Jermaine Allen; and
6. Mr. Mikhail Raymore.

(iv) Jamaica Urban Transit Company

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Board for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 13 February 2015 to 12 February 2018:

1. Rev. Dr. Garnet Roper – **Chairman**;
2. Mr. Christopher Bicknell – **Deputy Chairman**;
3. Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Wray Palmer;
4. Mr. John Ralston;
5. Ms. Suzette Campbell;
6. Mrs. Carolyn Gardner;
7. Mr. Winston Davis;
8. Mr. Richard DePass;
9. Mr. Delano Barnett;
10. Ms. Elizabeth Salmon;
11. Mrs. Maria Thompson Walters; and
12. Mr. Mikhail Raymore.

(v) Port Authority of Jamaica

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 13 February 2015 to 12 February 2018:

1. Prof. the Hon. Gordon Shirley, OJ – **Chairman**;
2. Major (Ret'd) Richard Reece;
3. Ambassador Stewart Stephenson;
4. Mr. Gary Peart;
5. Mr. Horace Reid;

6. Mr. Peter Melhado;
7. Mrs. Maureen Vernon;
8. Dr. Janine Dawkins;
9. Mr. Robert Kinlocke; and
10. Mr. Byron McDonald.

(vi) Sugar Industry Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of two (2) years, with effect from 9 February 2015 to 8 February 2017:

1. Dr. Wesley Hughes – **Chairman**;
2. Mrs. Cynthia Sankar;
3. Mr. Allan Rickards;
4. Mr. Robert Henriques;
5. Mr. Michael Erskine;
6. Rev. Joseph Rose; and
7. Representative, National Workers Union.

(vii) Transport Authority

Cabinet gave approval for the appointment of the following persons to the Authority for a period of three (3) years, with effect from 13 February 2015 to 12 February 2018:

1. Mr. Norton Hinds – **Chairman**;
  2. Ms. Nerine Small;
  3. Mr. Henry McCurdy;
  4. Mr. Clyde Harrison;
- Ex officio members
5. Ms. Joan Wynter;
  6. Mr. Donald Foster;
  7. Senior Superintendent of Police Mr. Andrew Lewis;
  8. Mr. Everton Hunter;
  9. Mrs. Teri-Ann Gibbs;
- Co-opted members
10. Mr. James Golding;
  11. Mr. Audley Deidrick; and
  12. Mr. Ludlow Powell.

5. Implementation of International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001 Quality Management System (QMS)

Cabinet endorsed the implementation of the International Standards Organisation (ISO) 9001 Quality Management System (QMS) by the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce and further supported the exploration of multilateral and bilateral grants to facilitate the implementation of Quality Management Systems in the private and public sectors as a deliberate strategy to enhance international competitiveness.

The ISO is a multilateral development agency that focusses on the development and harmonisation of standards across 165 member countries, and is the largest international

standards writing body. When a country is transitioning from developing to developed state, organisations in each country also undergo a parallel transition from operating using domestic standards to higher international standards in order to harmonise with the rest of the world and move from a lower standard to a higher standard. These organisations will in turn meet the export product and service specifications of customers in other countries, thereby increasing competitiveness.

## 6. Reports

### (i) Registered Apprenticeship Programme

Cabinet noted a report on the implementation of the Registered Apprenticeship Programme (RAP) through the HEART Trust/NTA. The programme is intended to provide an excellent mechanism for students to acquire academic qualifications and work experience, thereby preparing them for careers and providing solutions to high youth employment, especially among males.

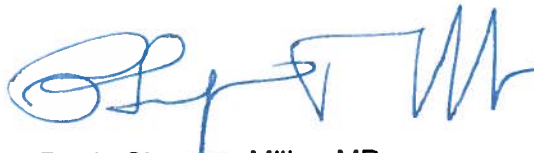
The report informed that for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2015, a minimum of 500 apprentices, ranging from unskilled persons to those with degrees, are projected to be engaged in the Apprenticeship Programme. The number of apprentices will be increased to over 2,000 by the end of the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Apprentices will be placed in programmes which include Agriculture, Construction, Business, Information Technology, Animation, skills related to the Logistics Hub, Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Tourism and Health Care for which support has been assured from the private sector and Government agencies.

### (ii) Sugar Cane Fires in Westmoreland

Cabinet noted a report on sugar cane fires in Westmoreland.

The report advised that since the start of the 2014/2015 crop, the total cane illicitly burnt at Frome was 58,440 tonnes; and the most recent fire occurred on 29 January 2015, with approximately 357 hectares of sugar cane being burnt in the Masemure and Retreat areas at an estimated loss of \$200 million. The report provided information on the negative impact of the fires on the industry for the 2014/2015 crop and the next season's crop, as well as the steps to be undertaken to, among other things, reap, transport and process the cane that had been damaged by the fires.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Portia Simpson Miller, MP  
Prime Minister  
27 February 2015

