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**MINUTES OF THE 194<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024 AT 9.00 AM**

- PRESENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms. Julia Crouch
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, Economic Development & Investment and Health, Dr. Ellis Webster
- Acting Deputy Governor, Dr. Aidan Harrigan
- The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs, Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services, Ms. Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers
- The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour, Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Lands and Physical Planning, Mr. Kenneth Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities Housing and Tourism, Mr. Haydn Hughes
- Acting Attorney General, Ms. Dawne Richardson
- Clerk to Executive Council, Ms. Dumisa Webster
- IN ATTENDANCE: Head of Governor's Office, Mr. Orlando Ames-Lewis
- ABSENT: The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr. Perin Bradley
- The Honourable Minister for Sustainability, Innovation and the Environment, Mrs. Quincia Gumbs-Marie

**EX MIN 24/192**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 193<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**EX MIN 24/193**

**EX MEMO 24/137 Waiver of Duty and Tax on Imports Associated with the Anguilla Summer Festival**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health briefed Council. Ex Min 24/132 granted waiver of duty and tax on imports associated with the Anguilla Summer Festival ("ASF"), specifically for participants, bands and fringe events. Request is now made for these exemptions to be extended to paraphernalia associated with sponsorship. The requested waiver would include sponsors' items such as banners, cups, and other branded items to be given away at the events of the ASF.

The Department of Youth and Culture has been consulted on the list of sponsors and types of items anticipated to be imported. However, the various items being imported by each sponsor have not been provided. All sponsors are required to have an agreement signed by them and the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Social Development. This agreement, or an addendum to it, must indicate where the paraphernalia will be used and that the material being imported is being used to promote the ASF. The estimated tax loss through granting of the requested waiver is approximately EC\$27,517.12. The period for clearing imports should be limited to August 11<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Executive Council considered and approved an exemption under the festivals provision of the Conditional Exemptions for the Anguilla Summer Festival as follows:

- I. The following specified items - banners, cups, and other branded items to give away during the Anguilla Summer Festival;
- II. Persons must bear a letter of support from the Department of Youth and Culture confirming their involvement in the event and confirming that the items are associated with such participation related to not-for-profit cultural activities. It

should be clear that the material being imported is being used to promote Anguilla Summer Festival;

- III. All Sponsors must have a sponsorship agreement which was approved by the PS of the Ministry of Social Development. This agreement must indicate where the paraphernalia will be used, or have an addendum done to advise the same; and
- IV. The period for clearing imports should be limited until August 11th 2024.

Executive Council authorized early release of the action sheet before confirmation of the minutes.

Action: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON. PREM.

**EX MIN 24/194**

**EX MEMO 24/128 Approval of the Renewal of Licence for the Wallblake House**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism briefed Council. The Wallblake House is a historical landmark which has been leased to the Government of Anguilla from 1978. It has been managed by the Government of Anguilla, specifically, the Tourism Unit, which is largely responsible for the renovations of the House. The Wallblake House is a testament of Anguilla's rich heritage as it is one of the oldest plantation houses in the region. General public access to the Wallblake House has been restricted since the passage of Hurricane Irma in 2017. Investment in the Wallblake House aligns with the broader objectives of enhancing Anguilla's tourism product, promoting community pride and preserving local heritage.

The licence has been maintained with a minimal annual fee of EC\$100.00. There will be additional costs for the renovation and management of the Wallblake House.

Executive Council noted and approved:

- 1) The new licence for the Wallblake House; and

- 2) Payment of the licence fee in the sum of EC\$100.00 per year.

Action: PS, MICUH&T; HON. MIN., MICUH&T.

**EX MIN 24/195**

**EX MEMO 24/138 Claim by Registered Proprietor as Lawful Attorney for Party of North Hill as Personal Representative of the Estate of Deceased Party for Road Acquisition of Property Situated in Registration Section North Central, Block 48613 B, Parcel 426.**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Lands and Physical Planning and Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism ("MICUH&T"). By Executive Council Minute 00/332, Council approved a number of priorities for settlement of compensation payments including Katouche-North Hill Link Roads, for which this matter is concerned. After correspondence from the solicitors of lawful attorney for the personal representative of the estate of the party, the relevant departments including Treasury and Lands and Surveys, conducted searches to determine if payment was made for the acquisition of road by the Crown. This search showed no such record. The land, being 0.64 of an acre, was assessed in 2000 and valued at US\$24,798.72/ EC\$66,663.92. MICUH&T has held discussions regarding payment of the same and noted that this payment can be made during the fiscal year 2024. It is therefore requested that Council approve the settlement of land acquired by the Government of Anguilla for road development.

Executive Council approved:

- 1) The Registered Proprietors of property described in Registration Section North Central, Block 48613 B, Parcel 426 be paid the amount of **US\$24,798.72 / EC\$66,663.92** for the acquisition of 0.64 of an acre of land conditional upon the transfers being executed and delivered to the Department of Lands and Surveys;
- 2) That the fee for a certificate of good standing be waived conditionally that the transfers are onward to the Crown outstanding since 2000;

- 3) The Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism to identify the reallocation of funds from capital projects; and
- 4) The Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism and the Department of Lands and Surveys prepare a schedule of lands affected at Old Ta Road improvement in 2000. Thereafter, the schedule be submitted to Executive Council for consideration and declaration as part of the Public Road under the Roads Act.

Council authorized issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the minutes.

Action: PS, HA; PS, MICUH&T; HON. MIN., HA; HON. MIN., MICUH&T.

**EX MIN 24/196**

**EX MEMO 24/139 Amendments to the Elections Act**  
Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Acting Deputy Governor briefed Council. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association ("CPA") report on Anguilla's 2020 General Election gave a series of recommendations for changes to processes and procedures in advance of the next general election. In order to address some of the recommendations in advance of the next general election, it is requested that Council first instruct the Attorney General's Chambers to draft the following amendments to the Elections Act, 2019:

- I. An enumeration process. This enumeration process will run parallel to the continuous registration provisions and will not amend the voter's register until the enumeration is complete and a decision is taken to reconcile the voter's register. Reconciliation would not be appropriate at a date close to the election in which case the enumeration would be paused;
- II. A boundary commission which would report on boundary changes that would be implemented after the next election;

- III. The need for political parties to publish all campaign donations over EC\$5,000.00 on a publicly accessible register;
- IV. The inclusion of Prison Officers, Fire Fighters and Medical Technologists in the categories of people who are allowed to vote early; and
- V. The inclusion of domestic observers as persons permitted to be present in polling stations, in addition to international observers.

It was noted that the Supervisor of Elections has now provided further information to the public regarding the process of challenging a voter. Any person is allowed to challenge someone within their electoral district who they believe does not qualify to be on the voter's registry. It was also noted that over the years, greater clarification has been provided on the necessary evidence to satisfy the Constitutional requirement that persons be residents of Anguilla in order to vote. Given the disparity between the number of persons on the voter's registry being approximately 12,000 and the number of persons living in Anguilla being approximately 15,000, a significant increase in voter challenges are expected in the coming months.

It was noted that historically, election laws have not been sufficiently enforced and that the Royal Anguilla Police Force ("RAPF") should be asked to address this matter.

Executive Council:

- 1) Noted that a general election has to be held within the next twelve months and that given the level of public concern in relation to a change in legislation shortly before the general elections, implementation of abovementioned recommendations I-III is not appropriate at this time;
- 2) Instructed the Attorney General Chambers to draft amendments to the Elections Act, 2019 which will allow for the inclusion of Prison Officers, Fire Fighters and Medical Technologists in the categories of people who are allowed to vote early;
- 3) Instructed the Attorney General Chambers to draft amendments to the Elections Act, 2019 which will allow for the

inclusion of domestic observers as persons permitted to be present in polling stations, in addition to international observers; and

4) Requested that the Acting Deputy Governor confirm which Department carries the responsibility for supporting the Supervisor of Elections and Election Policy in order to ensure that the Supervisor of Elections has the necessary resources to address the anticipated increase in voter challenges.

Action: HON DG (Acting); HON AG.

### **ORAL MENTIONS**

**EX MIN 24/197**

#### **Security of the Court House Building**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

HE the Governor provided an update on several meetings held with court officials and others following the recent shooting incident at the Court House Building. Addressing these concerns is a top priority for the Governor's Office but requires support from other Ministries/ Departments, in particular, MICUH&T and the Department of Information Technology and E-Government Services ("DITES") who have been asked to look at physical security measures. Court officials have requested that two armed police officers be stationed at the Court House Building depending on the type of cases being held. HE the Governor is in discussion with the Commissioner of Police, on options to provide long-term security including employing a local security firm to carry out safety and security functions at the Court House Building. HE the Governor noted that the Permanent Secretaries for Finance and Public Administration were being consulted on the implementation of this proposal. Council provided its approval of the proposal.

Action: PS, MICUH&T; HON. MIN., MICUH&T; PS, SIE; HON. MIN., SIE; EXCO CLERK; EXCO MEMBERS.

**EX MIN 24/198**

#### **Food Security Concerns in Case of Disaster**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

HE the Governor provided an update on tours she has recently conducted of Anguilla's key infrastructures in the context of disaster

management. It was noted that two of the major supermarkets have indicated that they do not have the level of emergency stocks of grocery items, as was the case in previous years, and that logistics to obtain supplies from overseas had become more challenging post the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was noted that Anguilla's most significant challenge in the context of disaster management is the supply of electricity/restoration of electricity following a major hurricane. It was noted that HE the Governor's Office has contacted relevant offices in the United Kingdom (U.K.) in relation to the human resources and critical infrastructure that would be needed to assist the island with electricity restoration efforts following the passage of a hurricane. Council were supportive of the U.K. entering into Memoranda of Understanding for critical supplies and services from overseas in the event of a hurricane affecting the wider region, particularly Canada.

Action: EXCO CLERK: EXCO MEMBERS.

**EX MIN 24/199**

**CCTV at the Landsome Bowl Cultural Centre**

Head of Governor's Office remained.

It was noted that installation of CCTV at the Landsome Bowl Cultural Centre, both interior and exterior has been completed and equipment tests have been conducted. It was also noted that CCTV for the wider Anguilla Summer Festival route was in the process of being installed.

Action: EXCO CLERK; EXCO MEMBERS.

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