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**MINUTES OF THE 198th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 29th AUGUST 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
- The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr. Perin Bradley
- 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. Erica Edwards
- Clerk to Executive Council, Ms. Dumisa Webster
- IN ATTENDANCE: Financial Advisor Mr. Evarist Mwesigye
- Head of the Governor's Office, Mr. Orlando Ames-Lewis
- ABSENT: The Honourable Minister Sustainability, Innovation and Environment, Mrs. Quincia Gumbs-Marie

EX MIN 24/223

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 197th Executive Council Meeting held on Thursday, 22nd August 2024.

EX MIN 24/225

EX MEMO 24/159 Approval of the Dive Tourism Policy- A Holistic Approach for Anguilla

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communication, Utilities, Housing and Tourism briefed Council. The aim of the Dive Tourism Policy is to manage, regulate, police and protect the marine ecosystems. Through introducing sustainable practices, a pathway will be paved to generate additional economic activity which will ultimately benefit the people of Anguilla.

Executive Council:

- 1) Noted the Dive Tourism Policy and its general support of same; and
- 2) Advised that a general revision of the policy be conducted. Key elements which require revision and clarification include:
 - a. The guidelines for enforcement of Marine Protected Areas;
 - b. The requirement of local medical insurance;
 - c. The restriction on certain diving equipment; and
 - d. Final Editing and Formatting
- 3) It is suggested that the policy should be clear on how far the Government was seeking to regulate the diving industry and guarantee safety standards and how far this was a matter for consumers to exercise due diligence in the diving companies they used.

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

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

EX MIN 24/226

EX MEMO 24/161 Legal Aid

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

Council considered the provision of legal aid for a 17 year old charged with firearms offences. Section 70 of the Child Justice Act makes it an obligation for Anguilla to provide legal representation if there is no legal representative appointed by the parent or guardian. In letter written to the Honourable Attorney General (Acting) Ms. Erica Edwards, the parent requested legal representation.

Executive Council approved the legal aid in the amount of EC\$5000.00.

Executive Council noted the need for a modernized legal aid policy to address the circumstances in which legal aid is required to be provided by the State, the amount to be paid and means testing of recipient. The new Registrar has been asked to review the policy and make recommendations including how to enable individual applications to be determined by officials at the court rather than through Executive Council.

Action: HON. AG.

EX MIN 24/227

EX MEMO 24/162 Priority Training Needs

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

Ex Min 24/138 notes the deferral of this matter. It is proposed that consideration be given to funding all critical areas, as identified by the Ministries and Departments, and the Island Scholarship for 2024.

Executive Council:

- 1) Noted the priority areas for departments/ministries and scholarships and financial assistance submitted for review; and
- 2) Approved of the Training Policy Committee's request to approve the Island Scholarship, scholarships, financial assistance and priority training areas for 2024/2025.

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

Action: DDHR; DHR; PS, PA; HON DG.

ORAL MENTIONS

EX MIN 24/228 Concerns Regarding Suspected Dwelling House in the Valley

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

Concerns were raised regarding a suspected dwelling house in the Valley area that has not received the proper permission from the Land Development Control Committee. Concerns were raised regarding the location and safety of the structure. It was noted that the Honourable Minister for Home Affairs and Lands has queried this matter with the relevant officials on several occasions.

Executive Council noted that the Honourable Minister for Home and Affairs and Lands is to query into this matter further and revert to Council.

Action: PS, HA; HON. MIN, HA.

EX MIN 24/229 Delays in Passenger Processing at the Blowing Point Ferry Terminal

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

Concerns were raised regarding the significant delays in passenger processing at the Blowing Point Ferry Terminal by Customs and Immigration. These delays have resulted in extensive wait times for passengers, which have prompted numerous complaints. It was noted that the Department of Information Technology and Government E-Services is assessing whether I.T. issues may be contributing to the cause.

Executive Council requested that the Permanent Secretary for Home Affairs submit an Executive Council memorandum on the

causes of passenger delays at the Blowing Pont Ferry Terminal and possible solutions.

Action: PS, HA; HON. MIN., HA.

EX MIN 24/230

Concerns Regarding Delay in Provision of Safety Measures at the Public Schools Ahead of New Academic Year

Financial Advisor and Head of Governor's Office remained.

It was noted that school officials have raised concerns regarding the delay in provision of key security measures at the public schools. It was promised that these measures would be provided ahead of the new academic year, however, that is no longer feasible. It was noted that the procurement process continues to cause significant delays in this matter as well as matters across the Government of Anguilla.

Executive Council noted that addressing the consistent delays caused by procurement process requires an extensive evaluation of the procurement process and asked the Honourable Deputy Governor and Minister to consider how to conduct the same.

Action: EXCO CLK; EXCO MEMBERS.
