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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2024 AT 9.30 AM**

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

EX MIN 24/334

EX MEMO 24/242 2025 Budget Estimate- Approval of 2025 Budget with Detailed Estimates

Head of Governor's Office and Financial Adviser remained.

The following persons joined the meeting:

Ms. Marisa Harding-Hodge, Permanent Secretary (PS), Finance
Ms. Ludiane Leveret-Richardson, Principal Assistant Secretary, Finance (Acting)
Ms. Solange Lloyd-Browne, Director of Finance
Ms. Rochelle Bryan, Budget Officer
Ms. Rukeya Jeffers, Finance Officer
Mr. Euston Richardson, Finance Officer
Mr. Remieko Richards, Debt Officer

Executive Council was presented with the proposed 2025 budget as presented by PS, Finance and the team from the Ministry of Finance. Following the issuance of the 2025 Budget and Forward Estimates Call Circular No. 1 and 2, which included specific reference levels for recurrent estimates, based from preliminary projections in line with the 2025-2027 Medium Term Economic and Fiscal Plan (MTEFP) at the reference, the Ministry of Finance received the requisite budgetary data from all Government Ministries and Departments. The budgetary data included new spending requests, savings options and updated revenue estimates.

The 2025 baseline was prepared using the 2024 budget allocation as a base with inclusion of certain additional amounts which were made available during the course of 2024 via supplementary. Additionally, several adjustments were made to the 2024 baselines including, inter alia, incorporation of MTEFP measures, the setting of Personnel Expenditure in tandem with Public Administration based on the revised 2008 salary scale and the clearance of arrears. Approximately EC\$15.6m was approved for new spending which was applied to the 2025 draft estimates.

Council was presented with a summary of the components of the 2025 budget, which includes:

- i. The proposed Recurrent Revenue Estimate for 2025 of \$525,829,372;

- ii. The proposed Recurrent Expenditure Estimate for 2025 of \$355,444,370;
- iii. The proposed Capital Expenditure of \$191,000,000 for 2025;
- iv. The proposed Capital Revenue of \$525,000.00 for 2025; and
- v. Amortization of \$39,633,774

Executive Council:

1. Approved the detailed 2025 budget estimates as attached in the memorandum presented to Council and prepared in accordance with the Medium Term Fiscal Framework:
 - i. The proposed Recurrent Revenue Estimate for 2025 of \$525,829,372
 - ii. The proposed Recurrent Expenditure Estimate for 2025 of \$355,444,370
 - iii. The proposed Capital Expenditure of \$191,000,000 for 2025
 - iv. The proposed Capital Revenue of \$525,000.00 for 2025
 - v. Amortization of \$39,633,774
2. Instructed the Ministry of Finance to include in the 2025 budget, the authority for the following personnel positions to be allotted for and funded by Government savings at the mid-year point for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Labour, Immigration, Information and Broadcasting, Lands and Physical Planning:
 - i. 1 Building Inspector
 - ii. 1 Electrical Inspector
3. Approved the Schedule for the Summary of Appropriations as attached in the memorandum presented to Council and instructed Chambers to prepare for tabling in the Anguilla House of Assembly; and
4. Commended the Ministry of Finance for their work on preparing and presenting the 2025 proposed budget.

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

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

EX MIN 24/335

EX MEMO 24/243 Approval of Legislative Amendments to the Goods and Services Tax Act and Regulations

Head of Governor's Office and Financial Adviser remained.

The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and the PS, Finance briefed Council on the proposed legislation. Executive Council Minute 24/288 approved the expansion of zero-rated food items under the Goods and Services Tax Act and Regulations to include all food items (excluding confectioneries and alcoholic beverages) and dietary supplements. This initiative aims to achieve several key objectives including a reduction of the financial burden of the public of Anguilla, promote public health and mitigate inflationary pressures. As such, the Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2024 and the Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 have been drafted to operationalize this decision. Additionally, it is recognised that robust monitoring and compliance mechanisms must be enacted to ensure that the benefits of this decision, particularly, savings are passed on to consumers. As such, the Ministry of Finance proposes to develop a regulatory framework under the Distribution and Price of Goods Act to facilitate the monitoring of the zero-rating policy. Approval of the foregoing pieces of legislation and regulatory framework is therefore requested.

Executive Council:

1. Approved the draft Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2024 and Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Regulations, 2024 (as attached in the memorandum presented to Executive Council) for submission to the Anguilla House of Assembly, subject to formatting;
2. Approved the draft Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Act, 2024, subject to instruction in Point 1. above, to come into force.
3. Noted the forthcoming framework under the Distribution and Price of Goods Act to monitor compliance and ensure the effectiveness of the zero-rating policy.

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

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

EX MIN 24/336

EX MEMO 24/244 Approval of Bill for Inland Revenue (Amendment) Act- Increase in Penalty Waiver

Head of Governor's Office and Financial Adviser remained.

Executive Council was briefed on the proposed legislative amendments. By Executive Council Minute 23/85, Executive Council authorized the establishment of regulations to raise the tax waiver limit of the Inland Revenue Department to EC\$20,000 per annum, per taxpayer. This proposed amendment to the Inland Revenue Department Act will allow for the Inland Revenue Department to effectively manage penalty and interest waivers, thus streamlining operations and providing timely relief when warranted.

It is requested that Executive Council approve amendment to the Inland Revenue Department Act to:

- Increase to the waiver limit for penalties and interest from EC\$1,000 to EC\$20,000 per annum, per taxpayer;
- Ensure that the waiver limit is a composite cap applicable across all tax types administered by the Inland Revenue Department; and
- Require the Comptroller to submit a quarterly report to the Executive Council detailing all waivers granted during the calendar period.

Executive Council approved the Bill for Inland Revenue Department (Amendment) Act, 2024, as outlined in the memorandum presented to Council, for tabling at the next session of the Anguilla House of Assembly.

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

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

EX MIN 24/337

EX MEMO 24/245 Application to Host Raffle and Exemption from Public Lotteries Tax – Royal Anguilla Police Force

Head of Governor's Office and Financial Adviser remained.

The Royal Anguilla Police Force ("RAPF") has applied for permission to host a raffle for their annual Police Week event for 2025. This event aims to engage the community in order to foster positive relationships and build public trust. The RAPF plans to host a raffle. If profits are made, the intent is to make contributions to a local senior citizen's home and a school. Section 2 of the Public Lotteries Tax Act requires persons desirous of hosting public lotteries, which raffle tickets are defined as, to seek approval from the Governor in Council to do so. As such, Executive Council's approval to host a raffle by the RAPF is requested under section 8 of the aforementioned Act.

Executive Council:

1. Approved the hosting of a raffle by the Royal Anguilla Police Force and waiver of the associated cost up to a revenue loss of US\$12,500 or EC\$33,602.50.

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

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

EX MIN 24/338

EX MEMO 24/246 Application for Duty and Tax Exemption by the Royal Anguilla Police Force Welfare Association

Head of Governor's Office and Financial Adviser remained.

Police Week as hosted by the Royal Anguilla Police Force ("RAPF") and funded through the RAPF Welfare Association is a yearly event, which commemorates the RAPF's anniversary. For Police Week 2025, several events catered to fostering positive relationships with the community and building public confidence and trust are slated, including a raffle. For the raffle event, the Police Welfare Association has purchased a vehicle from overseas and are requesting duty and tax exemption of any fees associated with the importation of the vehicle. As such, Executive Council approval of the foregoing exemptions is requested.

Executive Council considered and approved the application for duty and tax exemption by the Royal Anguilla Police Force Welfare Association for importation of a vehicle with a duty and tax loss of EC\$12,582.85.

Council authorised issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the minute.

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