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MINUTES OF THE 61st MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 9.00 AM

- PRESENT: Acting Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health,
 Dr Ellis Webster
- 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
- The Honourable Minister for Economic Development, Commerce,
 Information Technology, Environment and Natural Resources,
 Mr Kyle Hodge
- The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford
- Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- IN ATTENDANCE: Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,
 Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
 Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social
 Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson
 Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
- ABSENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam

EX MIN 21/301

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 60th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 16th September, 2021.

Council noted H.E. the Governor's apologies for her absence at Council this week and that Mr Perin Bradley is acting Governor.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 21/302

COVID-19 UPDATE

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined:

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin
Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers

Epidemiology***Global overview***

According to the WHO's most current epidemiological report of September 21, the global number of new cases declined significantly as compared to the previous week, with just under 3.6 million cases reported for the period September 13 – 19. This is largely attributed to declining case numbers in all regions of the world. The number of deaths also decreased compared to previous weeks with only the Western Pacific region reporting a slight increase of 7%.

The regions with the highest weekly incidence rates of cases and deaths per 100,000 population remain the same as last week. The regions of the Americas and Europe reported the highest weekly case (135.5 and 116.9 new cases per 100,000 population, respectively) and death incidence rates (2.4 and 1.6 new deaths per 100,000 population, respectively). The US is the country with the

highest number of reported cases in the last week, there were 1,017,644 new cases.

Caribbean Region

The total number of confirmed cases is 1,810,848 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States) and 332,547 in CARICOM Member States. The new total represents a 15.4% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 23,354 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as of September 20, 2021. Some Member States continue to experience increasing positive case numbers. Cluster outbreaks through to community transmission of the virus, with increasing hospitalizations and deaths continues.

Anguilla

As of September 22, 2021, the total number of confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 is 350 with 333 recoveries, 1 death and 16 active cases. Additionally, a fully vaccinated male of 60 years with several underlying risk conditions for severe COVID-19 was hospitalized.

- Since the previous Ministry brief, the decline in cases has plateaued, with around 20 new cases per week occurring for the last two weeks; and this is largely attributable to a large household cluster and two workplace clusters that evolved recently.
- Moreover, the test positivity rate for the last complete epidemiological week (September 12 to 18) was approximately 2.9%, which is lower than the previous peak of 6.7% and not significantly higher than the rate of 2.7% reported last week.
- The imported cases, including returning residents are mainly coming from the United States, Sint Maarten and the Dominican Republic (the top three countries) which together account for 80% of imported cases.

- Focusing on the 185 cases of local transmission occurring between August 8 and September 22:
 - The pattern of transmission was similar, most notably there was an increase from 11% to 15% due to workplace exposures. Household and social contacts continue to account for almost 70% (68%) of positive case contacts, with the former continuing to account for almost 60%.
 - The proportion of cases with unidentified sources of transmission or links to other cases remained stable at 17%.
 - 96 (52%) are vaccinated while 89 (48%) are unvaccinated.
 - 50 are unvaccinated minors representing 27% of all cases and approximately 56% of cases among the unvaccinated.
 - 105 (57%) females and 80 (43%) males of which, 54 out of 76 (71%) adult females are fully vaccinated, and 42 out of 59 (71%) adult males are fully vaccinated.

Vaccination Deployment Update

Vaccine Uptake

As of September 22, 9496 persons had received their first dose representing 75% of the initial target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 9087 persons (72% of target) have received their second dose. In a population estimate of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 61% of the population having received the first dose and 59% of the population having received two doses.

There are currently 136 doses remaining, which are due to expire on September 30. It is estimated that there will be 50/60 doses available after second doses have been provided; and these can be given as first doses to those that have recently registered to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID-19 Response Measures

The Ministry of Health notes that though a declining trend has been seen in the past two weeks, positive cases of local transmission continue to occur. The Ministry notes that the current measures

including the physical distancing requirements, mandatory mask wearing and the physical closure of schools and day cares should be maintained for at a minimum the next two weeks. The Ministry remains concerned that it is not possible for all school facilities to support the required physical distancing measures. The Ministry is open to proposals from the Ministry of Education on how face-to-face instruction could be resumed in such a way so as to permit the required distancing between students, the enforcement of mask wearing and the periodic testing of teachers.

Plan for the Escalation of Measures

The Ministry of Health has updated the previous Plan for the Escalation of Measures. The plan considers the escalation measures that might be required depending upon the epidemiological situation. The updated plan considers the health system's capacity to manage the epidemiological situation.

COVID-19 Exit strategy

The Ministry of Health noting the current epidemiological situation has further reviewed the position and drafted protocols for the resumption of ferry services to St Martin.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that the health team were somewhat concerned that opening schools too early could further stretch the resources of the health system, if infection rates were to rise;
- 3) noted that approximately 150, 12-17 year olds have expressed an interest in vaccination;
- 4) considered the Plan for the Escalation of Measures - September 2021, which shall be updated for review by

Council next week. Council noted that the last Stage should be amended to Stage 6 and that the physical closure of schools and daycare facilities should fall within Stage 4;

- 5) noted aligned to point 4 above that Anguilla's Protocol Plan shall be reviewed and updated for consideration by Council;
- 6) noted that when persons travel to Sint Maarten/ St Martin for medical purposes, as a result of a referral from a physician in the public or private sector, certain fees associated with the COVID-19 testing and quarantine measures may be exempted;
- 7) reviewed the following existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on 30 September 2021, and approved extension of the following from 1 October 2021 to 31 October 2021:
 - a) Public Health (Quarantine)(COVID-19) Regulations;
 - b) Quarantine (COVID-19)(Arriving Passengers Health Clearance) Rules;
 - c) Public Health (Regulation of Ports) Regulations;
 - d) Public Health (Landing of Passengers)(Special Exemptions) Regulations;
 - e) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations; and
 - f) Emergency (COVID-19 Border Control) Regulations; and
- 8) reviewed the Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021 which expire on 23 September 2021, and approved the continuation of the current measures, including the physical distancing requirements, mandatory mask wearing and the physical closure of schools and day care facilities, for at a minimum the next 2 weeks, with extension from 24 September 2021 to 31 October 2021.

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, HLTH; PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC, GEN;
HON, DG; HON, AG; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/303

EX MEM 21/179 NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

The Anguilla National Youth Policy (2021 - 2031) provides the Government of Anguilla with a guiding framework to positively impact the youth development landscape; and assist in the creation of an enabling environment for the empowerment of young Anguillians.

The policy articulates five interconnected pillars for positive youth development in Anguilla, namely:

- a) Enhancing youth economic participation;
- b) Prioritizing inclusive and active youth participation across all development sectors in Anguilla;
- c) Creating safe spaces, peaceful communities and nurturing environments;
- d) Providing access to quality holistic health services and promoting wellbeing; and
- e) Improving the institutional arrangements and policy environment for positive youth development in Anguilla.

The policy embraces the concept of mainstreaming youth priorities and issues across all development sectors in Anguilla. It emphasizes the importance of effective stakeholder engagement and participation, a resourcing strategy and a framework for monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

This newly revised policy is responsive to the contemporary needs and aspirations of youth in Anguilla, taking into account the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, changes in the socio-economic landscape of the country and recent developments at the regional and international levels. It creates a strategic environment that enables the Department of Youth and Culture and the Ministry of Social Development & Education to effectively mainstream youth policy across the entire spectrum of the government's policies, programmes and initiatives.

Council:

- 1) noted that presently there are no specific financial requirements. In the long term, once the National Youth Policy is entrenched at the Ministry level, a special fund should be created under the Financial Administration and Audit Act. Noted that funding may be obtained from an external partner; and
- 2) considered and approved the National Youth Policy.

Action: PS, SD; HON MIN, SD

EX MIN 21/305

**EX MEM 21/181 ANGUILLA FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT & AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2019**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council:

- 1) noted the Anguilla Financial Service Commission's Annual Report and financial statement for 2019; and
- 2) in accordance with legislative requirements instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to table the report at the next session of the House of Assembly for the information of legislators and the public.

Action: HON, AG; HON, DG

EX MIN 21/306

EX MEM 21/182 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION WEST END, BLOCK 17810 B, 201 SL HPH BEING 3686 SQ. FT.

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold on a freehold basis a luxury condominium unit of approximately 3686 sq. ft. forming part of the Resorts & Residences of Anguilla Home Owners Association Ltd., a Condominium development at Four Seasons Anguilla Ltd., described as Registration Section West End, Block 17810 B, Parcel 201 SL HPH, subject to the following:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| a) | Stamp duties payable are as follows: | |
| | (i) under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$8,542,147.98 | EC\$427,107.40 |
| | (ii) under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$8,542,147.98 | <u>EXEMPT</u> |
| | TOTAL | <u>EC\$427,107.40</u> |

- b) Regulations to be issued for Exemption, in accordance with the Fourth Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding dated 27th August 2019 between the Government and SOF-VIII-HOTEL II Anguilla Holdings LLC.

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

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

EX MIN 21/307

EX MEM 21/183 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION WEST END, BLOCK 17810 B, PARCEL 171 (VILLA 9) 0.22 ACRES OF LAND

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold on a freehold basis a luxury villa (Villa 9) being 0.22 of an acre forming part of the Resorts & Residences of Anguilla Home Owners Association Ltd., a Condominium development at Four Seasons Anguilla Ltd., described as Registration Section West End, Block 17810 B, Parcel 171, subject to the following:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------------------|
| a) | Stamp duties payable are as follows: | |
| | (i) under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$12,246,461.77 | EC\$612,323.09 |
| | (ii) under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$12,246,461.77 | <u>EXEMPT</u> |
| | TOTAL | <u>EC\$612,323.09</u> |

- b) Regulations to be issued for Exemption, in accordance with the Fourth Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding dated 27th August 2019 between the Government and SOF-VIII-HOTEL II Anguilla Holdings LLC.

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

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

EX MIN 21/308

**EX MEM 21/184 A BILL FOR THE BUSINESS LICENCE MORATORIUM
(AMENDMENT NO. 2)**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained.

The Hon Minister for EDCITENR briefed Council. This matter was considered in Ex Min 21/239. Currently, there is a moratorium on the issuing of business licences in Anguilla. It is proposed that the Business Licensing Moratorium (Amendment) Act, which is due to expire on September 30, 2021 be further extended to December 31, 2021.

Council:

- 1) approved the Bill to amend the Business Licence Moratorium Act; and
- 2) instructed the AG's Chambers to prepare the Bill for tabling at the next sitting of the House of Assembly.

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, EDCITENR; HON MIN, EDCITENR
