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**MINUTES OF THE 164<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 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 Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes  
The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford  
Acting Clerk to Executive Council, Ms Jennyville Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: The Head of the Governor's Office, Mr Orlando Ames-Lewis

ABSENT: The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour, Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Lands and Physical Planning, Mr Kenneth Hodge  
Minister Sustainability, Innovation and Environment, Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie

**EX MIN 23/356**

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Head of the Governor's Office remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 163<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**EX MIN 23/357**

**EX MEMO 23/284 Appeal of Land Development Control Committee (LDCC) Decision by Randolph Mercurius re Refusal of Permission to Construct a Chicken Farm at North Side, Block 58816B, Parcel 588**

EX MIN 23/354 refers.

Council after further discussions rejected the appeal.

Action: PS, HA; DLS; HON, AG; Acting PPO; SGO; HON, MIN HA

**EX MIN 23/358**

**EX MEMO 23/286 Approval of Cost of Living Support Measures**  
Head of the Governor's Office remained.

EX MIN 22/209 and 22/362 refers. The Minister for Finance and Health briefed Council. To continue supporting households with the rising cost of living prices particularly relating to fuel, it is proposed that the electricity grant be extended for an additional round (provided to all households in the form of a credit to domestic electricity accounts).

Through the Programme, the government will provide a 500XCD credit to consumer accounts to be applied through the monopoly energy supplier (ANGLEC), on or before 30 Dec 2023.

Council:

1. noted that the guiding policy for the Electricity Payments Programme (EPP) is non-discriminatory.
2. noted that the extension of the cost of living support measures is expected to cost EC\$3.05 million and can be accommodated in the current budget through savings.
3. approved the grant under the Electricity Payments Programme (EPP) of EC\$500 as a measure to help households deal with rising prices particularly relating to fuel continuing on previous terms:
  - a. Payment to be limited to domestic accounts with consumption over 40 units;
  - b. Payment is to be automatic to domestic accounts with consumption under 1400 units;

- c. Domestic accounts with consumption over 1400 units will be subject to further verification to confirm residential/non-commercial status;
- d. Construction Lines are not eligible; and
- e. Payment is to be made by 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

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

**EX MIN 23/359**

**EX MEMO 23/287 Government of Anguilla CariCRIS Credit Rating Report 2023**

Head of the Governor's Office remained.

Minister for Finance and Health briefed Council. The Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Limited (CariCRIS) is the Caribbean's regional credit rating agency. It is a unique market-driven initiative aimed at fostering and supporting the development of regional debt markets in the Caribbean through, inter alia, the rating of Government and State Enterprises. A CariCRIS credit rating is an objective assessment of an entity's creditworthiness relative to other debt-issuing entities and the CariCRIS regional scale rating compares all debt-issuing entities in a defined Caribbean region. As of September 2023, Caribbean Information and Credit Rating Services Limited (CariCRIS) has reaffirmed the assigned ratings of CariBBB+ (Foreign and Local Currency) on the regional rating scale to the notional debt of USD 25 million of the Government of Anguilla (GOA).

These ratings include a 6-notch uplift for the high likelihood of support from the United Kingdom (UK). The notched-up regional scale ratings indicate that the level of creditworthiness of this obligation, adjudged in relation to other obligations in the Caribbean is adequate.

Council

- 1) noted that Anguilla has had a stable rating since 2013, and received support from the UK where necessary. Also, noted that Anguilla's debt-to-GDP ratio had an increase above 70%; and

- 2) considered and noted the reaffirmed “adequate creditworthiness” ratings for the Government of Anguilla (CariBBB+) with a stable outlook.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, PREM

**EX MIN 23/360**

**EX MEMO 23/288 Approval of Bill for Allowances (Temporary Reduction) Act 2023**

Head of the Governor’s Office remained.

Minister for Finance and Health briefed Council. Ex Min 23/191 refers to Executive Council approval of the reinstatement of salaries in a phased manner commencing with the removal of the second round of cuts.

Council

1. noted that under the 2023-2025 MTEFP and associated fiscal framework, a provision of \$4.8 million was made for the reinstatement of increments and to accommodate placing employees in the main scale. These funds were accordingly appropriated in the 2023 budget.

The reinstatement of salaries in a phased approach has been costed as follows:

Officer	Cost 2024( Both rounds of Cuts)
Civil Servants	9.64m
Wage Workers	0.5m
Ministers of Government, Elected Members of HOA, Speaker	0.75m

2. agreed that notwithstanding the reinstatement of the 2009 salaries, annual increments will remain suspended. The Attorney General’s Chambers instructed to draft the necessary amendments.
3. approved the Bill for Allowances (Temporary Reduction) Act 2023.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, PREMIER

**EX MIN 23/361**

**EX MEMO 23/289 Approval of amendments to the Pensions Act.**  
Head of the Governor's Office remained.

The Minister for Finance and Health briefed Council. EX MIN 22/328 speaks to the actuarial reviews and the implementation of the actuarial recommendations for the Pension Fund. Section 'c' notes that effective January 1, 2024, both employer and employee rates would be increased by 1%. The resulting contribution rate to be Employer 6% and Employee 4%.

Council approved the amendment to the Pensions (Amendment) Act, 2023 increasing the contribution rates for employees from 3% to 4%.

Council approved the proposed amendments to the Pensions Act.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, PREMIER

**EX MIN 23/362**

**EX MEMO 23/290 Revision and Extension of Maximum Price Orders On Gasoline Sales**

Head of the Governor's Office remained.

EX MIN 23/88 refers. The Minister of Finance and Health briefed Council.

It is proposed to extend the price control on gasoline sales. Specifically, to set the maximum price level on the sale of gasoline until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Currently, the maximum price orders on the sale of gasoline are as follow:

- EC\$17.82 per imperial gallon for Sol St Lucia (Anguilla) Ltd;
- EC\$16.38 per imperial gallon for Delta Petroleum (Anguilla) Ltd;
- EC\$15.95 per imperial gallon for Anguilla Gases Ltd. (regular);
- EC\$17.13 per imperial gallon for Anguilla Gases Ltd. (premium).

Council

1. Noted the related concerns as to Delta Petroleum (Anguilla) Ltd's claim, however, the necessary supporting documentation has not been forthcoming.
2. Approved the extension of the Distribution and Price of Goods (Maximum Gasoline Price Order) Regulations, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024;

3. Approved the imposition of maximum price orders on the sale of gasoline, starting 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2023:
  - EC\$15.96 per imperial gallon for Sol St Lucia (Anguilla) Ltd;
  - C\$15.77 per imperial gallon for Delta Petroleum (Anguilla) Ltd;
  - EC\$15.31 per imperial gallon for Anguilla Gases Ltd. (regular);
  - EC\$16.19 per imperial gallon for Anguilla Gases Ltd. (premium);
4. Approved the dissemination of the proposed price order to the fuel suppliers and allowed them the opportunity to provide further information prior to the Order taking effect.
5. Approved the continual review of the price orders as new information from the fuel suppliers and pertinent data on fuel import costs are obtained;
6. Instructs the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the Orders and Notice of extension of Regulations for the signature of the Minister.

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

Action: PS, EDMSIE; PS, FIN; HON, AG; HON, PREM

**EX MIN 23/363**

**EX MEMO 23/291 Extension of Contract of the Spanish-Speaking Community Liaison Officer**  
Head of the Governor's Office remained.

EX MIN 23/51 refers. The Hon. Premier briefed Council. Following discussions among the Minister for Home Affairs, the Premier and other members of the Administration, the decision was taken to offer Mrs Guzman-Lamontagne a further 12 months extension of the contract to cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024. Except for the duration, the same terms and conditions of the initial contract are to apply to the extension.

Council:

- 1) noted that provisions for payment of the officer would have to be made in the 2024 Ministry for Home Affairs budget; and

- 2) approved the 12-month extension of the contract of the Spanish-speaking Community Liaison Officer, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

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

**EX MIN 23/364 EX MEMO 23/292 Food Security Project - Resource Distribution**  
Head of the Governor’s Office remained.

The Acting Minister of Innovation, Sustainability and the Environment briefed Council.

Council deferred this matter for further consideration.

PS, EDMSIE; HON, MIN EDMSIE

**EX MIN 23/365 EX MEMO 23/293 Anguilla Population and Housing (AP&H) Census 2022 Update**  
Head of the Governor’s Office remained.

The Acting Minister for SIE briefed Council. Chief Statistician, Mrs Lori-Rae Alleyne-Franklin and Statistical Officer, Mrs. Natalie Lake joined the meeting.

The Anguilla Statistics Department has been requested to provide a monthly update on the progress of the Anguilla Population and Housing Census 2022 enumeration phase.

The table below outlines the status as at 01 December 2023:

	No. of EDs	Completed	Near Complete	In Progress	Needs Enumerators
<b>December 01, 2023</b>	54	35	14	5	0
<b>November 03, 2023</b>	54	30	15	9	0
<b>October 05, 2023</b>	54	24	10	17	3
<b>September 12, 2023</b>	54	16	16	16	6
<b>July 4, 2023</b>	54	11	15	13	15
<b>June 14, 2023</b>	54	10	15	19	10

*Definitions:*

*Completed - all stages completed except validation.*

*Near complete – between 1-20 building points - households and the individuals therein to be completed.*

The enumeration phase is approximately 86.0% complete, as at December 01, 2023 at 3:27PM.

Council:

- 1) noted the status of the Anguilla Population and Housing Census 2022.
- 2) agreed that all Ministers will continue to proactively sensitize and encourage the public to become engaged in the Census process; and
- 3) agreed that the AP&H Census 2022 will conclude on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

Action: PS EDMSIE; CHF, ST; HON, MIN MSIE

**EX MIN 23/366**

**EX MEMO 23/294 Approval of the Child Protection (Amendment) Act, 2023**

Head of the Governor's Office remained.

The Attorney General briefed Council. The Magistrate's Code of Procedure (Electronic Litigation Filing and Service Procedure) Rules, 2023 recently passed by Executive Council establishing the E-Litigation Portal (ELP), in all Magistrate's Courts. The operation of the ELP is negatively affected by the Child Protection Act No. 6 of 2019 in that the word 'Court' means 'the High Court, *Family Division*'. There is no specialized Division of the High Court classed as a 'Family Division' of the High Court in Anguilla. Further, most of the child protection cases are handled by the Magistrate's Court and this definition unfortunately presents some difficulties with the Magistrate handling these matters. Therefore, the Child Protection Act needs to be amended to remove the reference to 'Family Division' and to broaden the definition of 'Court' to include the Magistrate's Court.

Council approved the proposed amendments to the Child Protection (Amendment) Act, 2023.

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

Action: HON, AG

**EX MIN 23/367**

**EX MEMO 23/295 Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2023**

Head of the Governor's Office remained.



The Deputy Governor briefed Council. Amendments to the Firearms (Amendment) Act will allow the introduction and deployment of a less lethal option to be used by the Royal Anguilla Police Force.

Council approved the proposed amendments to the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2023.

Action: HON, AG; HON, DG; COM of Police

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