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MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 18th DECEMBER 2023
AT 3:00 PM

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 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

Minister Sustainability, Innovation and Environment, Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie

The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford

Acting Clerk to Executive Council, Ms Jennyville Smith

IN ATTENDANCE: The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Merrick Richardson

ABSENT: The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley

EX MIN 23/309 **EX MEMO 23/309 Payment of Exgratia**
Hon Parliamentary Secretary remained

PS, Finance, Mrs. Kathleen Rogers
Accountant General, Vonlee Harris

The Hon Minister for Finance and PS, Finance briefed Council.

Historically an Ex-gratia payment was paid every year once the financial position was in good standing. However, the last ex-gratia payment was paid in 2007. Due to the global crisis and the downturn in the economy, the government of Anguilla was not in a financial position to continue this payment until now due to the improvement in the overall financial position.

In determining whether to grant an ex-gratia payment, consideration was given to the number of years that Public Officers had to deal with challenges related to a reduction in salaries for over thirteen (13) years, COVID-19, and increased cost of living because of increased inflation. Public Officers' salaries and other allowances were reduced in 2009 and 2010 due to a downturn in the economy. Since then they have gone through a number of challenging circumstances.

The objective of paying the ex gratia payment is to provide a safety net before the end of the year that is aimed at promoting financial and moral support to Public Officers and other groups identified.

Council noted that this was not a long-term solution to chronic underfunding of the public sector which would be addressed through the announced review of public salaries. It also noted that other measures would also be needed to tackle issues like extortionate loan agreements which affected individuals in the private sector as well.

Council noted there should be no expectation that a further ex-gratia award would be made next year. If it were recommended ExCo would need sufficient notice to enable consideration of how a further payment could be linked to performance criteria due to be introduced during 2024.

Council:

1. Approved a month's salary as an exgratia award to all Public Officers, Unestablished Workers, Pensioners, Legislators and specified Statutory Bodies and other groups set out in the paper submitted to the Executive Council.
2. Agreed and approved that the exgratia payment should be made only to persons who are employed in the Public Service and Statutory Bodies as at December 2023.

3. Agreed and approved that persons currently receiving a salary and a pension will not receive both payments, but will receive the higher of the two.

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

Action: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; PERM, SECS; BD; ACC, GEN;
HON, PREM; MINS OF GOV'T; HON, DG
