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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER 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

The Honourable Minister for 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

IN ATTENDANCE: The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Merrick Richardson

Financial Advisor, Mr. Evarist Mwesigye

Head of Governor's Office, Mr. Orlando Ames-Lewis

EX MIN 24/284

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Head of the Governor's Office and Financial Advisor remained.

Council deferred confirmation of the Minutes of the 204th Meeting of the Executive Council Meeting held on Thursday, 10th October 2024, to the next sitting.

EX MIN 24/285

EX MEMO 24/201- Application for Duty and Tax Exemption by Glenneva Hodge of GLH Productions

The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Head of Governor's Office, and Financial Advisor remained.

PS, Finance, Ms. Marisa Harding-Hodge joined the meeting.

PS, Finance and the Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance briefed Council. GLH Productions is a Non-Profit Organization responsible for the FirstStarts Initiative. The FirstStarts Initiative provides essential baby kits to families of all new-borns in Anguilla. The items include diapers, baby clothing and other related supplies. Specific Provision is made in the Integrated Customs Tariff (Amendment) (No.8) Regulations 2023 for imports of goods by non-profit organisations in furtherance of their activities.

Council carefully considered the application by Glenneva Hodge of GLH Productions and approved the application for duty and tax exemptions with a duty loss of EC\$4,177.48 as verified by the Customs Department.

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

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

EX MIN 24/286

EX MEMO 24/202- Removal of Excise Tax on Gasoline

The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Head of Governor's Office, and Financial Advisor remained.

PS, EDSIE Mr. Karim Hodge joined the meeting.

PS, Finance and The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance briefed Council. It is requested that an extension to the removal of Excise Tax on Gasoline imports be granted. This initiative aims to protect consumers from rising fuel costs and alleviate the cost of living burden.

Council:

1. Approved the Extension of the removal of the application of Excise Tax on Gasoline until 31st December 2025; and
2. Instructed the Attorney General Chambers to prepare the required regulations under the Excise Tax Act, 2022 for subsequent extension.

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

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

EX MIN 24/287

EX MEMO 24/203- Proposed Removal of Customs Duty and Goods and Services on the Importation of Glasses Frames

The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Head of Governor's Office, and Financial Advisor remained.

PS, Finance and the Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance briefed Council. It is proposed that the Customs Duty and Goods and Services tax on glasses frames and sunglasses be removed. Glasses frames and sunglasses are both considered vital for vision and preventative health care and as such, the proposed exemption supports the initiative to ensure the people of Anguilla have better access to the medical devices they need without facing significant financial burdens.

Council:

1. Considered the proposal and approved the removal of the application of Import Customs Duty and Goods and Services tax (exempt) effective 1st January 2024 on glasses frames and sunglasses;
2. Instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare amendments to the Goods and Services (Amendment) Act and amendments to the Goods and Services Regulations to exempt glassed frames and sunglasses from Goods and Services Tax; and
3. Instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to amend the tariff under the Integrated Customs Tariff regulations to make glasses frames and sunglasses items free from tariff/duty.

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

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

EX MIN 24/288

EX MEMO 24/204- Expansion of the Zero-Rated Food Items List and Addition of Supplements as Zero-rated under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Act and Regulations

The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Head of Governor's Office, and Financial Advisor remained.

PS Finance and PS, EDSIE remained and the following persons from the Ministry of Finance (MoF) joined the meeting:

Ms. Rochelle Bryan, Budget Officer
Ms. Rukeya Jeffers, Finance Officer
Mrs. Ludiane Leveret-Richardson, PAS (Ag.)
Mr. Remeiko Richards, Debt Officer
Mr. Lonnie Hobson, Comptroller of Inland Revenue
Mr. Kendall Richardson, Deputy Comptroller

PS, Finance and the Honourable Minister for Finance and Health briefed Council. Proposal is made to expand the list of zero-rated food items to include all foods except alcohol and confectioneries, as well as dietary supplements under the Goods and Services Tax Act. The initiative aims to mitigate rising living costs and improve public health.

Council:

1. Approved the expansion of the list of zero-rated food items and supplements under the Good and Services Act, to take effect from 1st January 2025;
2. Instructed that the necessary legislative amendments be prepared for consideration and approval; and
3. Requested that the Consumer Affairs Unit provide a submission to Council outlining the efforts that will be made to ensure public/consumer knowledge of the foregoing approved legislative amendment. This submission should be made for the sitting of Council set to take place in two weeks.

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

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

EX MIN 24/289

EX MEMO 24/205- Medium-Term Economic and Fiscal Plan (MTEFP) 2025-2027

The Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Head of Governor's Office, and Financial Advisor remained.

PS, Finance and the team from MoF presented the Medium-Term Economic and Fiscal Plan (MTEFP) 2025-2027 to Council. The MTEFP outlines the fiscal strategies and policies for Anguilla over the next three years. The plan focuses on economic recovery, responsible fiscal management, and strategic investments in critical sectors such as healthcare, youth development, infrastructure, and food security. The discussion also addressed the challenges presented by projected revenue losses stemming from the proposed tax exemptions and the strategies to mitigate these impacts while maintaining fiscal sustainability.

Council:

1. Approve the following policy priorities for the 2025 Budget to be circulated via Budget Call Circular No.1:
 - a. Boosting economic growth through progressive labour, immigration and land reforms with a focus on enhancing accessibility, to encourage personal and commercial investment.
 - b. Supporting young people through diverse learning opportunities, improved learning systems, enhanced sports development and investments in the creative industries.
 - c. Investing in health systems to expand the provision of specialized healthcare services, inclusive of mental healthcare, to ensure comprehensive, accessible, and quality care.
 - d. Ensuring food security by investing in production infrastructure at commercial and community levels to meet the nutritional needs of our communities.
 - e. Improving revenue generation through harnessing the potential of domain name registration and other digital opportunities.

- f. Investing in productive infrastructure to support improved public services, inclusive of port development, administration buildings, road networks and water systems to enhance efficiency.
- 2. Approved the Medium-Term Economic and fiscal Plan and associated fiscal framework 2025-2027.
- 3. Instructed the Ministry of Finance and Health to provide to the United Kingdom Government, a copy of the Medium-Term Economic and Fiscal Plan 2025-2027 and associated fiscal framework out to 2030 for consideration and approval.
- 4. Authorized early issuance of the action sheet to allow for the MTEFP to be submitted to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in the coming week.

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