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MINUTES OF THE 30th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2021 AT 9.00AM

- PRESENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance 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 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

EX MIN 21/48

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 29th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 4th February 2021.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Council noted that:

- 1) in relation to Ex Min 21/39 the Anguilla Statistics Department are to provide further advice to Executive Council on the steps taken to advance the directive given in Ex Min 20/354. H.E. the Governor will liaise with the UKG on potential capability support and expertise that may be available to help the Anguilla Statistics Department; and
- 2) consideration needs to be given to improving the procurement process for projects. Potential improvements include reviewing the process of bidder assessment, due diligence on the performance of contractors on previous projects as against objectives and ensuring project closure reports inform the lessons learnt for future projects.

EX MIN 21/49

EX MEM 21/24 PROPOSED SUPPLEMENTARY AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF PARADISE HOLDING COMPANY LTD (FRANGIPANI) AND APPLICATION FOR DUTY EXEMPTION FOR PARADISE HOLDING COMPANY LTD

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. The Ministry recommends a 1 year extension of the duty exemption, so the applicant can complete construction of the project. The progress of the project has been hampered by Hurricane Irma and Covid-19 and the last exemption expired on December 31, 2020.

Council:

- 1) approved the Supplementary Agreement (No. 3) which amends the Paradise Holdings MoA dated October 9, 2006. The Supplementary Agreement extends, for 1 additional year, the duty and tax concessions on the importation of construction materials, furniture, furnishings, fixtures, fittings and equipment for the construction and operation of the Frangipani Project;
- 2) noted that the application is for various items with a full duty loss of EC\$3,199,769.84 and that much of the duty loss is historic; and
- 3) agreed that the Applicant will pay the usual 5% administrative fee.

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

Action: PS, EDCITENR; PS, FIN; HON, AG; HON, MIN EDCITENR;
HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 21/50

EX MEM 21/25 NEW ACTUARIAL REVIEW OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE PENSION FUND

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

The Hon Premier briefed Council. The Public Service Pension Fund is the sole Pension Fund for the Government of Anguilla and its agencies and is governed by the Pensions Act. Under Section 29(1) of the Pensions Act, the Public Service Pension Fund is required to complete a review of its operations every three years. There are unfunded liabilities and it is important to obtain further advice from a new actuary in order to fully assess the current position.

Council:

- 1) noted that the board of the Public Service Pension Fund must

make the determination as to who shall be engaged to conduct the review; and

- 2) further noted that consideration must be given to budgetary allocation for the actuarial review.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 21/51

EX MEM 21/26 APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER (PRO) AND SPANISH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

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

The Hon Premier briefed Council. A Public Relations Officer is required to organize and oversee PR activities and ensure effective communication of accurate information with stakeholders, media and the general public on behalf of the Government across all Ministries, with oversight by the Hon Premier.

Owing to language and cultural barriers, the Hispanic community in Anguilla may encounter challenges when interacting with Government. Inclusiveness will be improved by appointing a dedicated community liaison officer within the Ministry of Home Affairs to assist Spanish speaking persons with various interactions with Government.

Council:

- 1) noted that appointments made by a Minister pursuant to executive power are exempt under Section 26 (n) of the Public Procurement and Contract Administration Act;
- 2) noted that there is provision within the budgets of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Home Affairs respectively to accommodate the two positions;
- 3) noted the two posts fulfill s.14.1 of the code establishing the

operations of the Executive Council and the duties of members;

- 4) approved the appointment of Mr. Ivan Connor as Public Relations Officer in the Office of the Premier/Ministry of Finance and Health with effect from March 1, 2021;
- 5) noted that the Spanish Community Liaison Officer must be a person that is connected with the community in order to fulfill the mandate. Accordingly, the position is not being structured as a permanent Public Service position; and
- 6) approved the appointment of Ms. Jeanette Guzman as Spanish Community Liaison Officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs with effect from March 1, 2021.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, HA; BD; ACC, GEN; HON, MIN FIN;
HON, MIN HA

EX MIN 21/52

EX MEM 21/27 PROPOSED POLICY ON REMOVAL OF CUSTOMS DUTY AND INTERIM GOODS TAX FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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. Government is focused on the development of the agriculture and fisheries sectors as key pillars of economic growth. This proposed policy seeks to incentivize local food production through concessions on key inputs for these sectors. The Government of Anguilla is committed to improving food security and promoting economic diversification.

The Agriculture and Fisheries sectors have traditionally benefitted from reduced or waived Customs Duty on basic imports, but a more comprehensive approach to the granting of concessions is required. Additionally, the introduction of Interim Goods Tax (IGT) has resulted in increased costs for farmers and as such is a disincentive to the expansion of existing operations or attracting new entrants to the sector.

Council noted the Policy on Removal of Customs Duty and Interim Goods Tax for Agriculture and Fisheries and that the financial information on duty loss must be verified, noted that it will require approval by UKG. A final decision ahead of submitting for UKG approval would be deferred until the next meeting of Executive Council on February 18.

Action: PS EDCITENR; HON, MIN EDCITENR

EX MIN 21/53

EX MEM 21/28 ACQUISITION THROUGH EXCHANGE OF PROPERTIES DESCRIBED AS REGISTRATION SECTION WEST END, BLOCK 17810 B, PARCELS 148 & 149

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 Home Affairs briefed Council. Council are asked to consider the exchange of two parcels of Crown land with two parcels of privately owned land, in order to facilitate a playground at the Alwyn Allison Primary School. There is no financial cost to the Government of Anguilla in facilitating the exchange, which has been pending since 2008.

Council:

- 1) agreed that lands situated in Registration Section West End, Block 17810 B, described as Parcel 148 being 1.10 acres be acquired via an exchange of Crown lands situated in Registration Section West Central, Block 28210 B, described as Lot 1 being 1.25 acres on Survey plan LS-06-18 part of Parcel 125;
- 2) agreed that Lands situated in Registration Section West End, Block 17810 B, described as Parcel 149 being 1.10 acres be acquired via an exchange of Crown lands situated in Registration Section West Central, Block 28210 B, described as Lot 2 being 1.25 acres on Survey plan LS-06-18 part of Parcel 125; and

- 3) agreed that the Ministry of Lands shall write to the proprietors of the said properties, or their representatives as appropriate, to communicate the interest of the Government of Anguilla in proceeding to conclude the exchange.

Council also noted that historical residual matters continue to arise. It is challenging to deliver the mandate promised to the general public and to budget accurately, as the costs associated with these matters are unpredictable. Accordingly, as it is important to address these matters it may be necessary to seek financial support and prepare Supplementary Budgets.

Action: PS, HA; DLS; HON, MIN HA; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/54

EX MEM 21/29 ASSIGNMENT OF LEASE - CROWN LAND, PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS REGISTRATION SECTION SOUTH CENTRAL, BLOCK 38812 B, PARCEL 131/3

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

Council deferred this matter for further consideration.

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

EX MIN 21/55

EX MEM 21/30 GRANTING OF A LEASE OF CROWN LAND, PROPERTY DESCRIBED AS REGISTRATION SECTION SOUTH CENTRAL, BLOCK 38812 B, PARCEL 131 (PART OF)

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

Council deferred this matter for further consideration.

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

EX MIN 21/57

COVID-19 & ASTRAZENECA/OXFORD VACCINE 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 the meeting: -

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin
Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
DIR, CDU, Mrs Twyla Richardson-Bradshaw

Epidemiological Update

The World Health Organization's February 7, update indicates that the incidence of new COVID-19 cases has declined in all regions compared to the previous week. As of February 7, over 105 million COVID-19 cases and 2.3 million deaths have been reported globally, with around 3.1 million new cases and 88,000 new deaths reported over the past week. The countries that reported the highest number of cases in the past week were the United States of America (871,365 new cases representing a 19% decrease from the previous week), Brazil, United Kingdom, Russian Federation and France.

Anguilla has recorded 18 confirmed cases to date. Currently there are 2 active cases.

Testing

After a re-stock of kits, there are 3040 Cepheid test kits remaining which can yield up to 12,000 tests utilizing the pooling method, when there are no positive samples. The validation of the second Gene Expert (Cepheid testing machine) is expected to be completed shortly.

There are 78 QuantStudio test kits which represents 7254 tests.

A new online test scheduling system, to be used for booking tests for onward travel was launched on February 8. There are some challenges and the Parliamentary Secretary and the Ministry of

Health will liaise on this further so that the matters can be addressed with the hoteliers.

Quarantine Update

At February 10, there were 335 persons in home quarantine including visitors staying at approved hotel and villa locations. There is 1 person in Government of Anguilla quarantine facilities and 2 persons in home isolation.

The RAPF Special Constables are to be commended for their stellar work.

Progress of vaccine rollout & vaccine campaign and registration status

Uptake

As of February 10 at 4.00 pm, there were 742 persons vaccinated representing:

- 145 Healthcare workers
- 171 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 106 Hospitality workers
- 99 Retired
- 221 Others

A vaccination tracker detailing registration information and the number of total doses given will be published at the end of the week. Challenges include persons not honouring appointments and assessing who is eligible for vaccination.

Registration

Over 3,300 persons have registered and registration outreach efforts continue, with registration sites at community centres and mobile registration sites at high foot-traffic locations. Policy initiatives that might spur uptake will be further considered.

Distribution

The team currently administers the vaccine at the PAH site only. However, the Western polyclinic may be available within the next 1-2 weeks. Discussions are ongoing as it relates to distribution efforts at the hospitality sites.

Communications

The campaign using diverse media continues.

Update on expediting charges for breach of Quarantine Protocols

The AG's Chambers has drafted Quarantine (COVID-19) (Arriving Passengers Health Clearance) (No. 2) (Amendment) Rules, 2021 to introduce fixed penalties for the breach of Quarantine Protocols and the Quarantine (Fees) Act 2021 for the remission of fees by hoteliers.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for work well done;
- 2) noted that with the COVID-19 test scheduling and arrangements a balance needs to be struck between service delivery to the hoteliers and managing resources;
- 3) noted the Health teams request for the Special Constables to be retained past March 31;
- 4) agreed that it is necessary to commence holistic planning of the way forward in terms of the COVID-19 response, namely, exit planning and considering changes to the measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this process the Hon Attorney General and the Parliamentary Secretary will work to consider how the different Quarantine Fees could be better aligned;
- 5) noted that consideration needs to be given to appropriate public reporting of the sanctions taken for breach of Quarantine Protocols;
- 6) agreed to consider and determine from a range of EC\$10K

to EC\$25K, the appropriate fixed penalty sum for breach of Quarantine Protocols, by the next meeting of Executive Council on February 18; and

- 7) further agreed to review the Quarantine (Fees) Act 2021, to facilitate hotels remitting arrival fees to the Government of Anguilla on behalf of guests. A determination will be made at the next meeting of Executive Council on February 18.

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

EX MIN 21/58

STATUTORY BODIES UPDATE

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

The Hon Deputy Governor briefed Council. Salient points as follows:-

Publication of Quarterly Financial Report on Statutory Bodies by February 11, 2021

The reports will be published by February 12.

Work Plans by February 11, 2021

All of the Work Plans have been submitted in draft format and work to finalise them continues.

Board of Director's training and certification

The results of the examination are still awaited.

Action: PERM SECS; MINS OF GOV'T

ORAL MENTION

EX MIN 21/59

ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST

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 Trust (ANT) were relocated from their previous premises in order to accommodate The Valley Clinic. The ANT require guidance on potentially acquiring a property with the USD\$200K budget which was allocated by the Governor's Office, and must be utilized by March 31, 2021. The ANT did consider building a property and completed the tender process but all of the bids received exceeded the available funds.

The Hon Deputy Governor will engage with the ANT and provide an update to Executive Council.

Action: HON, DG

EX MIN 21/60

ANGUILLA PROGRAMME

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 Social Development updated Council on the challenges being faced with the contractor responsible for the ATHPS and MVPS projects. There are financial challenges and unpaid suppliers will no longer provide materials. There is the risk that it will not be possible to complete the MVPS.

Council:

- 1) noted that the infrastructure in Anguilla has to be developed to support proper reporting and accounting systems;
- 2) noted that completion of the ATHPS and MVPS projects is of paramount importance;
- 3) noted that an independent forensic audit is required in order to determine the way forward as the financial risk and a factual

basis for any determination has to be identified. It is particularly important to understand whether the project is viable with the resources available, prior to considering recourse to the performance bond and termination of the contract.

Action: HON, DG; H.E. GOV
