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MINUTES OF THE 47th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10th JUNE 2021 AT 9.00 AM

- 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 21/183

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 46th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 3rd June, 2021.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 21/184

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: -

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin
Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
Commissioner of Police, Mr David Lynch

Update on the COVID-19 cluster and current situation

As of June 9, Anguilla has recorded a total of 109 confirmed cases with 109 recoveries and 0 active cases.

The epidemiological information pertaining to the cluster remains the same.

All 78 cases of COVID-19 associated with the cluster first identified on April 21 have now recovered. There were a total of three hospitalizations and no deaths. June 7 marked two full incubation periods or 4 weeks since the last positive case was identified. The interruption of further transmission and the resolution of the cluster is confirmed.

Testing and Contact Tracing

More than 1480 persons have been screened since April 22. The last positive cases were confirmed on May 10 and contact tracing has been exhausted.

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of June 9, there were 9551 registered persons of which 9118 persons had received their first dose, representing 72% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 5802 persons have received their second dose. The breakdown by occupation of first doses is as follows:

- 346 Healthcare workers
- 509 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1758 Hospitality
- 1047 Retired
- 5472 Others

Using 2011 census age demographics, the breakdown of individuals who have received the vaccine by age, is as follows:

- 2755 persons age 18 - 34 (69% of target)
- 2730 persons age 35 - 49 (68% of target)
- 2376 persons age 50 - 64 (99% of target)
- 1241 persons age 65+ (103% of target)

Vaccine Stock

As of June 7, there were 6872 doses remaining with an expiry date of July 31. Thus given the 6-week minimum period between doses, persons must receive a 1st dose by June 17, 2021 in order to guarantee receiving a 2nd dose from the current stock. Reminders have been sent to registered persons who have not yet had a first dose.

Vaccine ID Cards

On Friday 11th, June the vaccination ID card roll out will commence at the Electoral Office from 9am - 2pm on Monday to Friday.

Persons requesting cards prior to their eligibility date, for urgent travel, will be accommodated from 2pm - 3pm daily.

Promotional material including SM videos, graphics and radio material have been prepared and distribution via various mediums shall continue.

Police update on enforcement and policing plan

The Commissioner of Police updated Council on the policing plan of the RAPF.

The border security operations and plan will involve the following:

- Gathering intelligence on the movement of any boats in Anguilla's waters.
- Border surveillance from the land using 5 check points manned 24/7 by 2 people. This will be supported by interception via boat. The intention is for staff on call to respond by boat, on an as needed basis. Persons will not be stationed on the boat and this will have a bearing on response times. The search and rescue boat and the customs boat are available for use. Staff may be relocated from the Departments of Immigration and Customs, in order to adequately staff the observation points.
- A multi-agency team comprised of the RAPF, the Department of Immigration and the Department of Customs working together.
- Promotion to encourage use of the confidential email address.
- Continued use of the Facebook page.

Vehicles need to be sourced and a fuel budget will be required. A range of vehicles are needed for RAPF operations generally, however, the RAPF budget does not include provision for the acquisition of vehicles. Procurement through a UK scheme is being considered.

Approximately 80 – 100 cases have been prepared for prosecution before the courts. The cases mainly involve minor breaches but there are a few serious breaches.

Approximately 50% of the RAPF are vaccinated and the rates for the Departments of Immigration and Customs may be lower.

COVID-19 De-escalation of Measures

The Ministry of Health notes that since the re-opening of the borders from May 21 to June 8, there have been 1198 arrivals into Anguilla with the vast majority of persons arriving for vacation (1012 persons).

Currently there are 563 persons in home quarantine and this includes villas and resorts. Tourism industry partners have indicated that large numbers of visitors are expected for July. Therefore, the Ministry strongly recommends to continue the implementation process, including drafting the Regulations for Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team and the Commissioner of Police for the continued hard work and the efforts made to protect Anguilla;
- 2) noted that the COVID-19 cluster has been officially resolved as 2 incubation cycles have passed without any new COVID-19 cases;
- 3) noted that it is important to note the updated population figure of 15,500, so that vaccination rates are accurately reflected. In order to achieve herd immunity 70% of the general population must be vaccinated and we are currently at approximately 58%;
- 4) noted that the increase in the incidence of variants is concerning and an increase in vaccination rates will offer more protection. Because of the reduced efficacy of the

vaccine against variants of concern, higher rates of vaccination help to offer more protection against variants;

- 5) noted that in order to receive 2 doses of vaccine using the supplies available in Anguilla the 1st dose would have to be given by June 17, so that the 2nd dose could be given by July 31, when the vaccines expire;
- 6) noted that there is a distinction between rapid testing and expedited testing. Expedited testing is a faster service offered by laboratories, but such a test can still be one that meets the requirements for entry into Anguilla. Rapid tests are not acceptable and do not meet Anguilla's entry requirements;
- 7) noted that consideration shall be given as to whether COVID-19 tests, other than the currently required RT-PCR test could be used by fully vaccinated persons to meet requirements for entry into Anguilla after July 1. The RT-PCR test is a good quality high standard test and deviation from this benchmark has to be carefully considered. Noted that the fee charged for rapid testing for leaving Anguilla includes administrative fees;
- 8) noted that the Government will encourage the private sector to undertake COVID-19 risk assessments based on the model and template developed by the UK Health & Safety Executive. Noted the Anguilla Public Service had already undertaken a similar exercise;
- 9) noted that the position as it relates to permitting boat racing in August week (August 2 - 6) shall be reviewed;
- 10) noted the health team will be asked to assess whether there is potential for the ferry service to other destinations, for day trips to be safely reinstated for fully vaccinated persons only. Particular consideration should be given to the required testing regime;
- 11) noted that Government would seek to bring forward requirements for all work permit holders to be vaccinated, as a condition of the grant of a work permit;

- 12) noted Ministers of Government were clear on the vulnerability of the position above in managing the health risks and risks to life, in not achieving herd immunity and not pursuing mandatory vaccinations as well as the consequential economic risks and financial stability of public finances, should the island be subject to community spread;
- 13) noted the indication of the Ministers of Government that when Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy is adopted on July 1 persons have to be cognizant of the personal risk to health and finances that they are assuming, should they choose not to vaccinate and consequently become seriously ill with COVID-19. The Government is not positioned to offer financial support for medical care in such circumstances. There is also a wider responsibility to persons who cannot be vaccinated themselves, such as children;
- 14) agreed that there must be a final drive across all platforms to increase vaccination rates prior to June 17 and that vaccinations shall be offered on the morning of Saturday 12th June;
- 15) agreed that Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy shall be implemented on July 1, even though the herd immunity vaccination rate of 70% of the general population shall not be met by then. Council noted that with the implementation of this strategy there may be further outbreaks of COVID-19 and that appropriate control measures must be put in place to minimize transmission of COVID-19, reduce the inherent risks, maintain public health, preserve life and manage the resources available;
- 16) agreed that the Ministry of Health shall review and present for Council next week details of the wrap around support that is required, to ensure that the risks associated with importation and transmission of COVID-19 are adequately managed, when Anguilla moves to Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy. All endeavours have to be made to ensure that the risks have been adequately identified and addressed and that there is a plan for the management of scarce resources; and

- 17) agreed that the Government must consider and develop a contingency plan across relevant Ministries to address the actions to be taken in the event that there is a need to reverse the Exit Strategy, in the event of any outbreak of COVID-19, according to the severity and the epidemiological situation.

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

EX MIN 21/185

EX MEM 21/80 FINANCIAL STOCK TAKE – MARCH 2021

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 Finance, Mrs Kathleen Rogers
Budget Director, Mrs Shona Proctor
Budget Officer, Ms Jamila Gumbs
Comptroller of Inland Revenue (acting), Mr Lonnie Hobson
Accountant General, Mr Vonlee Harris
Council:

- 1) thanked the team for work well done;
- 2) noted the report on the financial position as at March 31, 2021, with an overview of the position as at the end of April and May from the Budget Officer;
- 3) noted that as at May 31 overall performance is approximately EC\$23 million below the forecast, accordingly, the Ministry of Finance should prepare an end of year forecast for inclusion in the next financial update, that outlines options to address this deficit and inform future decision making for 2021;
- 4) noted that accommodation tax revenue is performing well as tourism improves but customs duties revenues are lower than anticipated owing to reduced consumption. The local market is driving the negative variances, as expected; and

- 5) the overall fiscal position remains challenging:
- Overall financial position including debt amortization shows a surplus of EC\$10.96 million at the end of March;
 - Recurrent revenue was EC\$69.73 million this is EC\$27.91 million less than the original forecast and there was no UKG financial aid grant received during this month. Overall percentage impact on recurrent revenue for the major revenue heads as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are:
 - Property Tax - positive 126.57%
 - Interim Stabilisation Levy - positive 0.81%
 - Taxes on Goods and Services – positive 3.53%
 - Excise Taxes – negative 17.84%
 - Taxes on Specific Services - positive 67.71%
 - Taxes on International Trade – negative 21.50%
 - Sale of Goods and Services – positive 9.73%
 - Recurrent expenditure was EC\$51.76 million which is EC\$3.84 million above estimate;
 - Capital balance shows a deficit of EC\$0.27 million. Capital Revenue remains at \$0 for the period whilst capital expenditure was EC\$0.45 million;
 - Operating bank accounts are overdrawn by EC\$6.83 million;
 - Central Government Debt inclusive of short term credit facilities moved from EC\$452.80 million at the end of 2020 to EC\$440.26 million at the end of March 2021. The reduction in debt is attributable to debt amortization payments of EC\$6.56 million, disbursements on the ACC Loan of EC\$0.32 million and exchange rate fluctuations of EC\$0.03 million;
 - Since 2016 the EC\$330.28 million Banking Resolution debt declined to EC\$304.02 million at the end of March 2021, the EC\$26.26 million reduction relates to amortization payments to the DPT and CDB recapitalization loan;
 - The Sinking Fund balance at the end of March 2021 is zero;

- The overall fiscal position including debt amortization is a surplus of \$18.32 million at the end of April. As at May, the overall balance stands at \$21.66 million but these sums are earmarked to pay debt amortization. There was no amortization paid in May, as the monthly domestic loans matured at the end of April. Remaining loans are paid on a quarterly basis;
- Recurrent revenue collections for April were \$91.56 million, which is \$32.00 million less than forecast, of this amount \$3.94 million is attributable to the UK Grant. As at May the actual amount increased to \$105.19 million, which is \$36.24 million under estimate;
- Recurrent expenditure for April YTD actual is \$67.99 million, which is \$1.09 million below the estimate. As at May, the YTD actual is \$83.00 million, which is \$1.78 million under estimate;
- The expenditure arrears balance is \$38.6 million; and
- Noted payments commence on the ASSB promissory note at the end of June 2021.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC GEN;

MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/186

EX MEM 21/97 DISCONTINUATION OF FEES FOR FULLY VACCINATED PERSONS EFFECTIVE JUNE 20, 2021

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. On Thursday, April 8, 2021, Executive Council approved an Exit Plan for the reopening of Anguilla based on a phased approach. More specifically it was agreed that from July 1, 2021:

- fully vaccinated persons – that is persons with evidence of full

COVID-19 vaccination, will not be required to quarantine on arrival, if the final vaccine dose was administered at least three (3) weeks before the date of arrival;

- fully vaccinated persons would not be tested upon arrival and so the associated testing cost is eliminated; and
- fully vaccinated persons shall not pay entry fees.

In anticipation of the fees ending on June 30, there has been a change in reservation patterns, with persons seeking to avoid paying the entry fees and consequently occupancy in July is high as there shall be no entry fee for fully vaccinated persons. There is additional business that can be captured at the end of June.

Council:

- 1) noted the rationale for waiving the entry fees for fully vaccinated persons from June 20, 2021;
- 2) noted that the revenue losses could not be specifically quantified as the income is not guaranteed, but there are approximately 240 persons registered on the portal for entry over the applicable period and the revenue would be approximately USD\$72K;
- 3) approved the discontinuation of the fees payable by fully vaccinated persons entering into Anguilla, effective from June 20, 2021 rather than July 1, 2021 as previously agreed; and
- 4) instructed the AG's Chambers to prepare the required amendment to the Regulations to effect the discontinuation of the fees on June 20, 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 21/187

EX MEM 21/98 AND EX MEM 21/103 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE IMPORTATION OF AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE AND APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION – SUMMARY

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.

Council:

- 1) noted the information regarding the background to duty and tax exemptions;
- 2) noted that the granting of the proposed duty exemptions may potentially result in a total duty and tax loss of EC\$33,657.72 in 2021;
- 3) noted that the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the Department of Youth and Culture have identified EC\$593,795 in expenditure savings from the cancellation of the Anguilla Summer Festival, which had an allocation of EC\$890K;
- 4) noted the proposal that as ICD is underperforming, commensurate expenditure savings will be held in reserve (under the Ministry of Finance) to offset potential revenue losses from the grant of the exemptions. These exemptions will be monitored to assess the actual revenue loss versus the total approved amount;
- 5) noted that the Government is working on a policy document for conditional exemptions to present to ExCo for approval and thereafter the House of Assembly;
- 6) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Mr Warren Fleming on the importation of an electric vehicle effective from May 1, 2021;
- 7) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 8) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$7,159.16; and

- 9) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolutions of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169; section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019; and section 29A of the Excise Tax Act, 2019.

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

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

EX MIN 21/188

EX MEM 21/99 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR TOP HILL BASKETBALL CLUB

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Mrs Evette Harrigan on the importation of a vehicle for use as a passenger bus for the Top Hill Basketball Club;
- 2) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 3) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$4,713.35; and
- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolutions of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169; section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019; and section 29A of the Excise Tax Act, 2019.

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

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

EX MIN 21/189

EX MEM 21/100 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR SPIN HAVEN

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Mr Desroy Findlay on the importation of spin bikes, rowing machines, weights, Stairmasters and gym equipment, for a 2 year period from January 15, 2020 to January 14, 2022;
- 2) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 3) noted that the estimated total duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$20,530.72 and that a refund of EC\$ 4,026.75 in duty and tax paid for previously imported spin bikes shall be due to Mr Findlay as a result of granting this exemption. Duty and tax shall be paid on supplements and swimwear; and
- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolutions of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169; section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019; and section 29A of the Excise Tax Act, 2019.

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

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

EX MIN 21/190

EX MEM 21/101 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR SAINT JAMES SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Saint James School of Medicine on the importation of glucose monitors and equipment to be used for a research project;
- 2) noted that there is no administrative fee payable; and
- 3) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$1,254.49.

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

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

EX MIN 21/191

EX MEM 21/102 APPLICATIONS FOR PERMIT OF PERMANENT RESIDENCE

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that the following persons should be granted the Permit of Permanent Residence in accordance with Section 24 of the Immigration and Passport Act:
 - a) Tonya Tanessha Hershela James Jackson
 - b) Norma Elaine Merchant
 - c) Yarisá Yarismal Julian Halle
 - d) Claribel Sanchez Santana
 - e) Miguel Angel Madrigal Mercedes
 - f) Jesus Valenzuela Ramirez
 - g) Johnny Lerbu Sanchez
- 2) further agreed that each applicant must submit a valid Certificate of Good Standing from the Inland Revenue Department, before the Permit of Permanent Residence is issued; and

- 3) noted that granting Permanent Residence did not exempt persons from the provisions of the Labour (Relations) Act, nor did it entitle them to Belonger status until they have been residing in Anguilla for 15 years, or become naturalized British Overseas Territories Citizens in Anguilla. These individuals would become eligible to apply for naturalization after one year of permanent residency.

Council noted that one of the applicant's is a former employee of the Hon Minister for EDCITENR.

Action: HON, AG; LAB, COM; CIO; PS, HA; HON, MIN HA
