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**MINUTES OF THE 48<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> 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 21/192

**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 47<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Council recognised the week of mourning for the former Chief Minister Mr Hubert Hughes and a minutes silence was observed in honour of his contributions.

EX MIN 21/193

**COVID-19 & ASTRAZENEC/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  
 Commissioner of Police, Mr David Lynch

**Epidemiology*****Global overview***

According to the WHO Situation Report of June 15, global COVID-19 cases and deaths have declined over the past week (12% decrease to 2.6 million new cases and 2% decline to 72,000 deaths). Several regions have seen a declining number of cases. However, several countries are beginning to observe an increase in cases associated with the Delta variant: in the UK this is now the most dominant variant and is responsible for up to 90% of new cases in England; displacing the Alpha variant. UK authorities have indicated that cases are arising largely in the unvaccinated population, including younger age groups. The UK is also starting to see an

upward trend in the number of hospitalizations. In the USA, after several weeks of declining cases, there has been a small increase in the number of cases. The CDC has also formally classified the Delta variant as a variant of concern.

### ***Caribbean Region***

The Caribbean region continues to record an increase in cases, with a 2% increase over the previous week. Several countries are experiencing cluster outbreaks and community transmission of the virus, with increasing hospitalizations. Several countries have introduced additional control measures to curb the current spread of the virus.

### ***Anguilla***

As of June 9, Anguilla has recorded a total of 109 confirmed cases with 109 recoveries and 0 active cases. The last active case was recorded on May 10. There are 467 persons currently in quarantine.

Furthermore, on June 7, the US CDC downgraded Anguilla's COVID-19 classification from Level 2 back to Level 1, which is the lowest risk category.

### **Vaccination Deployment Update**

As of June 15, there were 9589 registered persons of which 9176 persons had received their first dose, representing 72% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 5996 persons (48% of target) have received their second dose. The breakdown by occupation of first doses is as follows:

- 346 Healthcare workers
- 513 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1764 Hospitality
- 1051 Retired
- 5503 Others

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

- 2785 persons age 18 - 34
- 2743 persons age 35 - 49
- 2382 persons age 50 - 64
- 1246 persons age 65+

### **Vaccine Stock**

As of June 15, there were 6576 doses remaining with an expiry date of July 31. Thus given the 6-week minimum period between doses, persons must receive a 1<sup>st</sup> dose by June 17, 2021 in order to guarantee receiving a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose from the current stock. Based on current uptake rates, there may be upwards of 3000 doses due to expire on July 31, which may remain unused. Consideration should be given to shipping these doses to another country who may be able to utilize them before expiry.

### **Vaccine ID Cards**

On June 11 the vaccination photo ID card roll out commenced at the Electoral Office from 9am - 2pm on Monday to Friday, with the assistance of public service officers. Thus far an estimated 450 cards have been distributed since June 11.

### **Police update on enforcement and policing plan**

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

Consideration will have to be given to surveillance. The operation includes surveillance of the south side of Anguilla for illegal movement around, and entry into Anguilla. The operation would require approximately 30/40 employees and the expenditure would need to be authorised and budgeted for. Details of how many employees can be sourced internally from the RAPF and the Departments of Immigration and Customs will be confirmed, but it is anticipated that special constables will be required in order to

achieve the desired staffing level. Since observations commenced a very small number of boats have been observed in Anguilla's waters.

The special constables are to be retained until around August. However, there needs to be a budgetary allocation for this and authorisation to recall the special constables back to duty at short notice should be given. With these provisions in place, in the event of an outbreak of COVID-19, where quarantine has to be managed and the movement of persons has to be monitored the special constables can be recalled for duty at short notice.

In relation to the investigation into the alleged illegal re-entry, there have been no further developments. Intelligence is required in order to advance any investigations; otherwise, a vast amount of CCTV recordings will have to be reviewed by the RAPF, who will have to travel to Sint Maarten/St Martin in order to do this. Intelligence will assist in narrowing the search parameters, which would make a review of the CCTV more viable.

### **COVID-19 Exit Strategy**

The Ministry of Health notes that the implementation of Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy has been underpinned by the two primary assumptions:

- 1) that 70% of the population of Anguilla will be vaccinated; and
- 2) that a favorable global and local epidemiological situation will prevail.

### ***Vaccination Uptake***

The Exit Strategy included several mechanisms to accomplish the goal of achieving a 70% vaccination rate, including requiring vaccinations for workers in particular sectors, who work closely with the public. This has not yet occurred and is still recommended by the Ministry. At present, the vaccination rate remains suboptimal for the measures noted in the existing Exit Strategy.

Further, the Exit Strategy is underpinned by the global epidemiological situation and must take into consideration the existing data from PHE. This data indicates that the Delta variant is upwards of 60% more transmissible than the existing strain and that the AstraZeneca vaccine is less efficacious against this variant when only 1 dose is taken. (Efficacy is at 30% for one dose and 60 % for two doses).

Further, the current technical advice from PHE is that 80% (fully vaccinated) coverage of the eligible population (over 18s) is the ideal threshold for herd immunity and this takes into account the reduced effectiveness of current vaccines against some variants. PHE further advises that the same target is to be maintained when vaccines are available and licensed for younger persons. Cognizant that the vaccination rate for Anguilla, has not met this target and will not do so before the end of July, the Ministry of Health recommends some variations to Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy due to commence July 1.

## **COVID-19 Exit Strategy - Outstanding Matters**

### ***Human Resources***

The Ministry of Health hired 24 persons on temporary contracts to allow for the testing of all passengers and the management and screening of persons in quarantine. Further, the RAPF special constables have been employed to monitor adherence to the COVID-19 protocols and manage the expected number of persons in quarantine or under restricted movements. Based on the uptake rates these services should be extended to August.

### ***Ferry Services and Day Trips to St. Maarten/St. Martin***

The timeline for the resumption of this service was placed in Phase 3 of the Exit Strategy. The territories of St Martin/Sint Maarten continue to record significant community circulation of the COVID-19 virus resulting in increased hospitalizations and deaths on both sides of the island in recent weeks. The island has several COVID-19 variants of concern circulating, including the Alpha and Delta variants. Further, vaccination rates remain suboptimal with St Martin estimated at 25% of the population and Sint Maarten at 40% of the population, vaccinated with a first dose.

The Ministry of Health strongly advises that day trips to neighboring countries, for fully vaccinated persons should not be considered before the end of August, which would align with the projected dates to obtain 80% coverage. Given that there is a high risk of introducing a variant of concern to a currently susceptible population at this time.

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 festival organisers will be seeking the expertise of the health team to ensure that they can properly verify vaccination ID cards which are issued in other countries and held by visitors to Anguilla;
- 3) noted that persons are undergoing training in order to assist with the screening of applications for entry into Anguilla including review of RT-PCR COVID-19 test results; and to increase resilience of the team. This is a function which is presently carried out by the CMO;
- 4) noted that the PS Health will provide the PS Finance with details of any additional funding required;
- 5) noted that ferry services for day trips, for fully vaccinated persons, to other destinations remain under consideration;
- 6) noted that mandatory sectoral vaccinations are not going to be advanced at this time and communication about this will be issued today;
- 7) noted the position of the Ministry of Health that the Exit Strategy was predicated on a number of factors and that if the targets were not met, the Exit Strategy was subject to change according to prevailing circumstances;
- 8) noted the Ministry of Health's proposed recommendations and variations to Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy which have taken into consideration the risks, as the desired vaccination

rate for herd immunity has not been met in Anguilla. Noted the recommendation to restrict the movement of multi-generational families with children under 18, for a 4-day period and the recommendation that on June 30, persons regardless of vaccination status should remain in quarantine until the expiry of their quarantine period or conclusion of their trip;

- 9) agreed the following as it relates to Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy, due to commence on July 1:
- a) fully vaccinated persons who are in Anguilla when Phase 1 commences shall be able to exit quarantine on July 1, once they have received a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test result enabling them to exit quarantine, testing shall be conducted between June 30 and July 1;
  - b) all visitors to Anguilla 18 years and older, who are eligible to be vaccinated are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at least three weeks before arrival. No exemptions shall be granted under this provision, except for pregnant persons;
  - c) multi-generational families with children under the age of 18 years will be required to produce a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test 3-5 days ahead of arrival, on arrival testing shall be conducted, and they may be subject to further testing;
  - d) all persons are required to produce a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test 3-5 days before entry;
  - e) persons with evidence of full COVID-19 vaccination will not be required to quarantine on arrival, if the final vaccine dose is administered at least three weeks before date of arrival;
  - f) fully vaccinated persons will not be tested upon arrival. Thus, entry fees will not apply to fully vaccinated persons;
  - g) unvaccinated returning residents will be required to

- Produce a negative RT- PCR COVID-19 test 3-5 days prior to arrival,
- Undergo arrival testing, and
- Quarantine for 10 days in approved accommodation; and

h) permit holders for festivals will be required to admit only fully vaccinated individuals to festivals;

10) agreed that in addition to work permit holders (renewal/new) all eligible persons representing Anguilla overseas in a national capacity must be fully vaccinated; and

11) reviewed the existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on June 30 and approved the amendment, to reflect the agreed recommendations in Section 9 and extension of the following from 1 July 2021 until 30 July 2021:

- a) Public Health (Regulation of Ports) Regulations;
- b) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations;
- c) Public Health (Quarantine) (COVID-19) Regulations;
- d) Quarantine (COVID-19) (Arriving Passengers Health Clearance);
- e) Emergency (COVID-19 Border Control) Regulations;  
and
- f) Public Health (Landing of Passengers) (Special Exemptions) Regulations.

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

EX MIN 21/194

**EX MEM 21/104 RESTRICTING THE CONDUCT OF RELEVANT ACTIVITIES BY ANGUILLIAN ENTITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS**

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

Council considered this matter in Ex Min 21/165, wherein it was agreed that certain amendments should be made to the Trades, Businesses, Occupations and Professions Licensing Act and the AG's Chambers were directed to commence drafting. The Hon Minister for EDCITENR outlined the proposed amendments, which require businesses that are engaged in specific activities to form a company or limited partnership. The specified activities are defined in a Schedule which is to be included in the Act. The objective of the legislative amendments is to assist with the removal of Anguilla from the EU Blacklist.

Council:

- 1) approved the Bill to amend the Trades, Businesses, Occupations and Professions Licensing Act; and
- 2) instructed the AG's Chambers to prepare the Bill for tabling at the next session of the House of Assembly.

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

Action: PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; HON, AG; MINS OF GOV'T

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