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MINUTES OF THE 59TH MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 9.00 AM

- PRESENT: Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health,
Dr Ellis Webster
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
- ABSENT: The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs,
Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services,
Ms Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers

EX MIN 21/288

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 58th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 2nd September, 2021.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 21/289

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:

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin
 Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
 Director of the CDU, Mrs Twyla Richardson-Bradshaw
 Commissioner of Police, Mr David Lynch

Epidemiology***Global overview***

According to the WHO's most current epidemiological report of September 7, the global number of new cases remained similar to the previous week, with just over 4.4 million cases reported for the period August 30 – September 5, 2021. This is largely attributed to declining case numbers in the regions of Africa, South East Asia and the Eastern Mediterranean and plateaus in the regions of Europe and the Western Pacific. The region of the Americas reported a 19% increase in cases.

The cumulative number of cases reported globally is now over 220 million and the cumulative number of deaths is over 4.5 million. All regions, except the regions of the Americas (17% increase) and Europe (20% increase), reported similar or a declining number of deaths this week, as compared to the previous week.

The regions with the highest weekly incidence rates of cases and deaths per 100,000 population remain the same as last week. The regions of the Americas and Europe reported the highest weekly case (172.4 and 122.8 new cases per 100,000 population, respectively) and death incidence rates (2.5 and 1.6 new deaths per 100,000 population, respectively). The US is the country with the highest number of reported cases (1,297,399 new cases) in the last week, which is a 38% increase.

The WHO reported on an outbreak study in China which found higher viral loads and higher risk of pre-symptomatic transmission in persons with the Delta variant when compared to other non-VoCs. Further, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated persons were more likely to transmit infection than fully vaccinated persons. In addition, a UK study further supported that there is a higher risk of hospitalization for persons infected with the Delta variant than the Alpha variant.

Caribbean Region

The total number of confirmed cases is 1,643,887 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States) and 298,120 in CARICOM Member States. The new total represents a 4.7% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 20,324 deaths recorded in the Caribbean region as of September 6, 2021. Some Member States continue to experience increasing positive case numbers. Cluster outbreaks through to community transmission of the virus, with increasing hospitalizations and deaths continues.

Anguilla

As of September 8, 2021, the total number of confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 is 305 with 36 active cases. Infections continue to be seen in fully vaccinated visitors and returning residents. However, there has been an increase in local transmission and this has been the overriding pattern seen in the surge of cases occurring in August. From August 8 to September 8, 149 out of 184 (81%) cases confirmed involved local transmission. The remaining 35 cases (19%) were imported from several countries:

13 (37%) from the United States, nine (26%) from Sint Maarten, six (17%) from the Dominican Republic and the remainder from Jamaica, Curacao, Canada, Saint Kitts and Mexico.

The following is a summary of the patterns identified in the 149 cases of local transmission, for the period August 8 to September 8:

- Household and social contacts together accounted for more than 70% of the cases, with household contacts accounting for almost 60%. Extensive transmission within large multi-generational households occurred. For around 20% of cases the source has not yet been identified and eventually, if the trend continues this is likely to lead to a change in classification, which aligns with some degree of community spread.
- An increase in the proportion of unvaccinated minors from around 10% previously to around 30% (44/149) currently.
- Vaccination status: 70/149 (47%) are fully vaccinated and 79 (53%) are unvaccinated:
 - Of the unvaccinated, 44/79(56%) are unvaccinated minors of which 21/44 (48%) are 10 years or younger.
 - Of 105 “vaccine-eligible” adults – 42/63 (67%) of the adult females and 28/42 (67%) of the adult males are vaccinated.
- Cases are still generally mild and either asymptomatic or presenting with symptoms including: loss of taste and smell, headache, scratchy throat, cough, muscle aches, diarrhea and vomiting.
- More than 1400 persons have been screened thus far.
- Genomic sequencing continues to confirm the Delta variant and more samples are pending.

Presently, the highest number of confirmed cases thus far occurred on August 26 and involved very large family households. Furthermore, the test positivity rate for the weeks between August 8 to September 4 (using epidemiological calendar weeks) has ranged from 0.9 to 6.7, with an average of 3.0%. Note that this is an extremely conservative estimate, since rapid tests have not been included and the imported cases have been included as well.

Vaccination Deployment Update

Vaccine Uptake

On September 8, second dose administration resumed via scheduled appointments at the Welches Polyclinic.

As of September 8, 9494 persons had received their first dose representing 74% of the initial target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 8999 persons (71% of target) have received their second dose. In a population estimate of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 61% of the population having received the first dose and 58% of the population having received two doses.

Vaccination Registrations

Since August 8, there have been 36 new registrations. On August 24, the Ministry launched a registration of interest survey for persons aged 12 - 17; thus far there have been 107 registrations. The Ministry will start to increase vaccination promotion and encourage additional registrations.

HAA Laboratory and COVID-19 Testing Update

On Monday 6 September, two technicians arrived to complete the biosafety cabinet repairs and it is anticipated that the work shall be completed by the end of this week.

As of September 8, the current Cepheid stock is critically low due to the high volume of testing during the current outbreak. The pooling method is suspended presently, due to the high number of reactive (positive) samples. Since September 6, the laboratory has been utilizing the closed platform (as stock reserves are higher) for one run per day, for all samples received. This can generate up to 96 results per run, but the process is time intensive and thus results may be delayed.

COVID-19 Exit Strategy

Residents and Day 4 Quarantine Requirement

The Ministry of Health continues to discover residents who are purporting to be short stay visitors in order to circumvent the 4-day quarantine period. Efforts continue to ensure that persons comply with the law.

COVID-19 Regulations and Rules

The Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021 are due to expire at 23:59 pm on September 9. Due to the current outbreak, the Ministry of Health recommends the continued extension of this regulation until September 23 and amendment to include the physical closure of schools for persons under age 18, including pre-school and the closure of daycares.

RAPF Enforcement Update

- Enforcement of the regulations pertaining to mass gatherings is taking place.
- The RAPF are educating and informing the public of their current legal obligations. There is an emphasis on the requirements under the regulations and they are also encouraging self-enforcement.
- Persons who breach the law are being prosecuted and the RAPF continue to issue fines.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that the vaccinations are working, as without the vaccination coverage there would be more positive cases and more hospitalisations. Work is ongoing to assess the number of minors that have been vaccinated abroad;

- 3) noted that the health team are considering alternative sites for COVID-19 testing;
- 4) noted that some persons are not observing the 25 person limit for mass gatherings. Noted that case numbers may appear to be falling, but not all positive cases may be captured by testing and the overall health implications have to be considered when determining the restrictions. Agreed to amend the regulations, so that the number of persons permitted for indoor and outdoor mass gatherings is determined by the size (square footage) of the premises; and
- 5) agreed that the Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021 shall be extended to September 23 and amended to address the limitation on the number of persons that can gather, by reference to square footage of the premises; the physical distancing; and mask wearing requirements.

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 21/290

EX MEM 21/170 OVERDRAFT FACILITY 2021 - 2022

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

Council noted that:

- 1) the Government of Anguilla overdraft facility shall expire on 30 September 2021; and
- 2) an overdraft resolution must be submitted to the House of Assembly at its next sitting to secure the facility in accordance

with Section 38 of the Financial Administration and Audit Act 2010.

Council agreed that:

- 1) an overdraft facility of twenty million Eastern Caribbean Dollars be maintained at the National Commercial Bank of Anguilla Ltd, at an interest rate of 5.75 per cent effective 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022;
- 2) a continuing guarantee and promissory note shall be provided by the Government of Anguilla to the National Commercial Bank of Anguilla Ltd; and
- 3) the draft overdraft resolution shall be submitted to the House of Assembly at its next sitting to give effect to the renewal of the overdraft facility.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 21/292

EX MEM 21/172 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION WEST END, BLOCK 17810 B, PARCEL 201 SL F201A AND F201B BEING 991 SQ. FT. AND 648 SQ. FT. RESPECTIVELY

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

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold on a freehold basis, two (2) luxury units situated in Registration Section West End, Block 17810 B, described as Parcel 201 SL F201A & F201B being 991 sq. ft. and 648 sq. ft. respectively forming part of Resorts & Residences of Anguilla Home Owners Association Ltd., a Condominium development at Four Seasons Anguilla Ltd, subject to the following:

a) Stamp duties payable are as follows:

- (i) under the Stamp Act – 5%
of EC\$3,043,556.93 EC\$152,177.85

- (ii) under the Aliens Land Holding
Regulation Act – 5%
of EC\$3,043,556.93 EXEMPTED

TOTAL **EC\$152,177.85**

b) Regulations to be issued for Exemption.

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

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