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MINUTES OF THE 80th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10th MARCH 2022 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: 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
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

EX MIN 22/84

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 79th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 3rd March, 2022.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 22/85

COVID-19 UPDATE

Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined:

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
CMO, Dr Aisha Andrewin
Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers

Epidemiology***Global overview***

Globally, during the week 28 February – 6 March the number of new cases and deaths has continued to decline by 5% and 8% respectively, as compared to the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, over 10 million new cases and just over 52,000 new deaths were reported. As of March 6, over 433 million confirmed cases and over 5.9 million deaths have been reported globally.

Update on the Emergence of Variant of Concern Omicron (B.1.1.529)

The current global epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 is characterized by the global dominance of the Omicron variant and Delta remains the only other named variant with significant reported circulation. For all countries/areas/territories with 100 or more sequences uploaded to GISAID within the last 30 days, Omicron remains the dominant variant.

Caribbean Region

Since the previous report on March 1, an additional 16,073 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 32 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 3,255,544 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States). The new total represents a 0.5% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 32,716 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as of March 7.

Anguilla

As of March 9, 2022, the total number of confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 is 2578 with 2567 recoveries, 9 deaths and 8 active cases. Three vaccinated adults are currently admitted to the Isolation Unit, one 89 year old female and two males aged 81 and 75.

Anguilla has been reduced from Level 4 to Level 3 by the CDC USA and this was reflected in the website update of March 7.

Testing Update

Since the beginning of the year, January 2 to March 5, more than 21,795 COVID-19 tests have been conducted, this is more than 2400 per week on average. Ranging from a minimum of around 1457 to a maximum of 3187, and well over 2000 for 8 out of the 9 weeks reflected. Furthermore, about 2135 (less than 10%) were RT-PCR tests and the remaining were rapid tests.

Vaccination Deployment Update

Vaccine Uptake

As of March 4, 2022, 10,528 first doses and 9,562 second doses have been administered. In an estimated population of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 68% of the population having received the first dose and 62% of the population having received two doses. In addition, this reflects 77% of the total eligible population (13,560) having received one dose and 71% having received two doses.

The breakdown by age of persons having received a first dose is as follows:

- 256 persons age 5 - 11
- 511 persons age 12 - 17
- 3062 persons age 18 - 34
- 2904 persons age 35 - 49
- 2487 persons age 50 - 64
- 1316 persons age 65+

The occupational breakdown of first doses is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 546 Civil and Border Protection
- 1834 Hospitality
- 1105 Retired
- 6655 Others

Distribution (Pfizer)

As of March 4, 3691 doses of Pfizer have been administered, this includes 955 first doses, 317 second doses and 2419 booster doses. This includes 256 first doses for children aged 5 – 11 years old and 511 first doses for 12 - 17 year olds, which represents roughly 39% of the estimated 12 – 17 year old population.

All six public primary schools were visited during the period February 24 to March 4 and 173 children aged 5 - 11 years were vaccinated in the school setting. Vaccine distribution in the Welches, Central and Western polyclinics continues.

Vaccine Stock

As of March 8, the COVID-19 vaccines in stock are as follows:

- 2, 268 doses of Pfizer adult formulation due to expire on June 30, 2022
- 400 doses of Pfizer pediatric formulation due to expire on April 3, 2022
- 200 doses of AstraZeneza due to expire on March 31, 2022

Exit Strategy Part 2

A meeting was held on March 3, with the Hon Deputy Governor, the Anguilla Public Service, the Ministry of Health and Tourism partners to discuss matters; including whether the portal is the most efficient method of managing the arrival of unvaccinated persons into Anguilla and what system could potentially be put in place as an alternative. The consensus was that the portal be kept for a further three months to manage unvaccinated travelers, including medical exemption requests.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that the CDC Level 4 categorization has been reduced to Level 3;
- 3) noted that consideration should be given as to whether more pediatric doses of the vaccine should be obtained;
- 4) noted the vaccine expiration dates and that there is a need to maximize the doses used. Noted the continuing demands on the testing and vaccination teams and agreed that a resourcing plan needed to be developed, assessing external resourcing options to supplement the nursing team. Agreed noting the need to build resilience whilst also maintaining testing and vaccination levels. Consideration should be given to a wider campaign highlighting the present availability of the vaccine, noting that availability can always change;
- 5) noted the current stock levels and expiration dates for rapid and PCR testing kits and also the operational functionality of the Cepheid testing machine;
- 6) noted the operational challenges with testing and that at this juncture the Ministry is not considering obtaining any more PCR tests. However, the Ministry recommends the procurement of additional rapid tests, in light of the unusable batch of tests currently in stock, and the necessity to have

adequate stock in place in case of a rapid uptick in positive cases or for exit testing;

- 7) approved the proposal that the application portal for entry into Anguilla should be retained for a further three months to manage applications from non-vaccinated travelers, including medically exempt persons;
- 8) agreed that as it relates to the Exit Strategy, there is to be no change to the definition of **fully vaccinated** at this stage. Accordingly, booster doses are recommended, but vaccinated adults and minors who were vaccinated with a complete course more than 6 months ago, but have not had a booster dose are still considered fully vaccinated, and will not need to apply via the portal, but shall be subject to testing on entry;
- 9) agreed that as it relates to the Exit Strategy, there will be no change in the entry process for 12 - 17 year old visitors. There will be no mandatory vaccination requirement for 12 to 17 year old visitors, and the current practice will continue; and
- 10) noted the Revised Exit Strategy Part 2, recommendations as of April 1, and that paragraphs 8 and 9 above should be reflected in the plan. The final version of the Exit Strategy, shall be considered by Council, prior to publication, which is anticipated before the end of March.

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 22/86

EX MEMO 22/57 APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENT OF THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN ASSET MANAGEMENT CORPORATION AGREEMENT

Financial Specialist remained.

The Hon Premier briefed Council. At the 92nd Meeting of the Monetary Council held in November, 2018 Council members approved the proposed amendment to the Schedule to the ECAMC

Agreement Act, which comprises the ECAMC Agreement. This amendment seeks to amend Article 96, which provides for the Board to issue bonds guaranteed by each participating Government. The proposed amendment allows these bonds to be guaranteed by one or more of the Participating Governments.

Council considered this matter in November 2021 in Ex Min 21/356 and further instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to consider the wider implications. Having completed the review it has been determined that the provision of a government guarantee is within the purview of Participating Governments and not the Monetary Council. Only the Government of Anguilla can take a decision regarding a Government guarantee issued by Anguilla.

Council:

- 1) noted that where legislative amendments are proposed the original legislation should be included, in order for Council to compare and understand the changes; and
- 2) authorized the Hon Premier and Minister for Finance to sign the Eastern Caribbean Asset Management Corporation (Amendment of Schedule) Order, 2018.

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

EX MIN 22/87

EX MEMO 22/58 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION WEST CENTRAL, BLOCK 28111 B, PARCEL 80 CONTAINING 0.50 OF AN ACRE

Financial Specialist remained.

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold on a freehold basis, property situate in Registration Section West Central, Block 28111 B, described as Parcel 80 being 0.50 of an acre located at Rendezvous, Anguilla for residential purposes with a Villa thereon, subject to the following:

(a) payment of the following Stamp Duties:

(i)	under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$2,407,283.10	EC\$120,364.16
(ii)	under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$2,407,283.10	EC\$120,364.16

TOTAL

EC\$240,728.32

(b) the property must be used for residential purposes;

(c) the Licencee must not rent their dwelling house without first notifying the Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce, Information Technology & Natural Resources of their intention to rent the said property; and

(d) the Licensee shall fully comply with the laws of Anguilla including the Land Development Control Act, the Property Tax Act, the Building Regulations, the Labour (Relations) Act, the Social Security Act, the Immigration and Passport Regulations and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and any rules or regulations made there under.

Council noted that in order to collect Accommodation Tax on transactions, for which it is payable, a mechanism needs to be formulated to assess and gather data on when properties are being occupied and rented to persons other than the owners.

Council noted that the applicants qualify for the Residency by Investment programme and accordingly, information about the programme should be shared with them to optimize uptake.

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

EX MIN 22/88

EX MEMO 22/59 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR HUGHES MEDICAL CENTRE

Financial Specialist remained.

Council:

- 1) noted that the MRI scanner which the applicant intends to import is an orthopedic one and it is different to the MRI scanner which is being obtained for the Princess Alexandra Hospital, but it will support the provision and continuity of healthcare services. Although the machine may be leased and not bought outright the full administrative fee will be paid;
- 2) queried whether the savings made through this exemption would be passed on to the patients receiving the services of this MRI scanner;
- 3) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Hughes Medical Centre on the importation of an orthopedic MRI machine;
- 4) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 5) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$144,087.52; and
- 6) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolution of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169 and section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019.

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