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MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TENTH ANGUILLA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 31ST OCTOBER 2011

PRESENT: His Excellency The Governor, Mr Alistair Harrison

The Honourable Hubert Hughes, Chief Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Investment, Commerce and Tourism

The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Stanley Reid

The Honourable Edison Baird, Minister of Social Development and Education

The Honourable Walcott Richardson, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Lands, Physical Planning, Human Rights, Environment and Gender Affairs

The Honourable Attorney General, Mr James Wood

Mrs Jewelle Fleming, Clerk to Executive Council

IN ATTENDANCE: Hon Jerome Roberts, Adviser to the Hon CM

Hon Haydn Hughes, Parliamentary Secretary

Mr Larry Franklin, PS, MICUH Mr Foster Rogers, PS, MHA/LANDS Ms Mary Clare Haskins, Crown Counsel Ms Gina Brooks, Tourism Planner

Mr Gifford Connor, DLS Ms Aurjul Wilson, PS, PA

Dr Bonnie Richardson-Lake, PS, HSD Mrs Chanelle Petty-Barrett, PS, ELSYC

Mrs Sandra York-Gumbs, Administrative/Financial Manager, MICUH

Dr Wycliffe Fahie, PAS, FIN Dr Aidan Harrigan, PS, EDICT Mrs Kathleen Rogers, PS, FIN Mrs Shona Proctor, Budget Officer Ms Valencia Prentice, Finance Officer

Mrs Shantelle Richardson, Chief Projects Officer (Acting)

Mr Ivor Greene, Senior Crown Counsel (Civil)

ABSENT: The Honourable Evan Gumbs, Minister of Infrastructure, Communications,

Utilities and Housing

EX MIN 11/731 EX MEM 11/310 FISCAL STABILIZATION MEASURES FOR 2012 FISCAL YEAR AND INTRODUCTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES VALUE ADDED TAX

PAS, FIN joined the Meeting.

Council agreed in principle to the following proposed new tax measures for 2012, subject to the working out of details and the need for amendments to the necessary legislation:-

- 1. Banking Licence Fees transferred from Financial Services Commission to GoA;
- 2. Training/Education Levy a tax on employers who have workers on work permits at 3%. Council noted that the name of the Levy will be reconsidered as funds would go into the consolidated fund;
- 3. Withholding Tax a tax levied on the incomes of specified workers such as consultants and contract workers and collected by the employer;
- 4. Communication Levy increase by 3%;
- 5. Goods and Services/Value Added Tax Council mandated the Tax Reform Working Group to take the implementation process forward with a completion date not to exceed 31 December 2014.

Council further agreed that the Restaurant Meals Levy and the Car Rental Levy should be deferred.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDICT; PAS, FIN; BO; ACC GEN

EX MIN 11/732 <u>EX MEM 11/311 EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) 10 – PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT INDICATORS</u>

Permanent Secretaries, FEDICT and MICUH Officials joined the Meeting.

Council:-

(i) approved the Performance Assessment Indicators and targets indicated below, subject to final amendment and the choice of indicators to be agreed:-

Performance Assessment Indicator	2012 Target	2013 Target
Procurement Reform	Legislation passed and Board established	Introduction of bulk purchases of office supplies

Property Tax Reform	New Property tax legislation passed	Revenue target of EC\$2.98m for January – June 2013
GoA Energy Savings	Energy savings Project initiated and energy audit conducted	XX percent reduction in kwh hours for Jan – June 2013 compared to the same period in 2012
GoA Vehicle Pooling	Vehicle pooling scheme introduced	5 percent reduction in maintenance costs for Jan – June 2013 compared to the same period in 2012
Education Quality - Literacy	XX% increase – TBD	2% increase over 2012
Education Quality - Science, Math and Technology	Increased student participation in Science fairs	Training of teachers completed
Training – Secondary TVET	Education Act passed	XX percentage increase in enrolment
Adult Training ACC	Student enrolment	XX percentage increase in enrolment
Catastrophic Risk Management	Insurance premium paid	Insurance premium paid and evidence of participation in risk mitigation measures

(ii) designated the achievement of these targets and the associated tasks necessary for their completion as top priority until the 10th EDF General Budget Support Programme has been completed.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDICT; PAS, FIN; CPO (Ag.); OTHER PERM SECS

EX MIN 11/734 REQUEST FOR CONTINUED FULL PAYMENT OF HOUSING ALLOWANCE

Council noted a request from Ms Ivenia Benjamin, Senior Magistrate for continued full payment of a Housing Allowance. Members were advised as to the implications of not acting in accordance with the established Housing Policy.

Ministers nonetheless agreed to continue paying the Senior Magistrate a housing allowance of EC\$3,000.00 per month throughout the entire five year term of her contract rather than reducing it to EC\$1,500.00 during the third and fourth years of her contract and to EC\$0.00 during the fifth year of her contract, as mandated by the Housing Policy and reflected in her contract.

Action: PS, PA; PS, FIN; PS, EDICT; ACC GEN; OFF MAN, JUDICIARY

EX MIN 11/735 <u>DISCUSSION OF THE 2012 BUDGET: CURRENT EXPENDITURE,</u> RECURRENT REVENUE & CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Permanent Secretaries and FEDICT Officials remained for discussion.

Further to EX MIN 11/716 of 27 October 2011, Council continued discussion on the 2012 Budget. Following detailed discussion, Council agreed, subject to the amendment of figures and review to the following:-

a) Recurrent Expenditure - EC\$183,473,784.00

b) Recurrent Revenue - EC\$188,227,817.00

c) Capital Expenditure - EC\$ 20,875,952.00

d) Recurrent Expenditure for rolling forward years of 2013 and 2014 respectively:-

(i) EC\$182,968,106.00

(ii) EC\$185,055,810.00

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDICT; PAS, FIN; BO

EX MIN 11/736 **JUDICIARY COSTS**

Council, during its 2012 Budget discussion, raised concern with regard to the high costs incurred by the Judiciary. Council agreed that the concerns raised in Executive Council should be addressed to the Chief Registrar of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court in an effort to subsequently reduce the high costs.

Action: PS, PA; PS, FIN; PS, EDICT
