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MINUTES OF THE 89TH MEETING OF THE TENTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2012

- 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, Health, Sports
and Education
- The Honourable Walcott Richardson, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Lands,
Physical Planning, Human Rights, Environment, Gender Affairs and Agriculture
and Fisheries
- The Honourable Evan Gumbs, Minister of Infrastructure, Communications,
Utilities and Housing
- The Honourable Attorney General, Mr James Wood
- Mrs Jewelle Fleming, Clerk to Executive Council
- IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Kenrick Richardson, Comptroller of Customs
Mr Foster Rogers, PS, EDICT
Mr Perin Bradley, TIO

EX MIN 12/16 **CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 88th Meeting held on Thursday 5th
January 2012.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 12/17 **EX MIN 12/02 EX MEM 11/376 REIMBURSEMENT OF TELEPHONE**
BILLS TO HON CHIEF MINISTER

Council agreed that EX MIN 12/02 of 5 January 2012 should be amended as
follows:-

The Governor indicated that he was dissociating himself from the decision on the
Chief Minister's telephone bill and made the following statement:

"I fully accept that under Anguilla's internal self-government the decision on whether to reimburse the Chief Minister EC \$40,000 for his telephone bills from November 1997 to March 2000 during his previous time in office is one for the elected Ministers. But I should like to dissociate myself from the decision on the grounds that too much time has elapsed and that no clear audit trail has been presented to EXCO. The original assertion in Hon Richardson's paper that at that time both personal and official calls were paid for is certainly inaccurate, as I checked it with Mr Hughes predecessor Sir Emile Gumbs and his successor Osbourne Fleming. Both told me that they paid for personal calls themselves. The Accountant General's information also falls short of confirming the assertion. In any case, all claims for expenses should be made promptly, which by no stretch of the imagination is true in this case."

At this point the Chief Minister begged to break his silence and made the following points in response:

- he had presented his bill to the new Government a week or two after leaving office in 2000 and they had said they would pay it;
- his phone bill had been paid for his first two years as Chief Minister, and he had assumed the arrangement was being continued as Cable and Wireless did not cut him off. At any rate the Treasury had given a note verifying the practice;
- his practice had been to come into the office at 10.00am, making many international calls in his capacity as Minister for Tourism from home before that time;
- he had never had a phone at home until he first became a Minister in 1980;
- he had refused to pay his property tax to the previous government as they had refused to honour their commitment to him. So the issue had been a live issue continuously since he originally presented the bill for payment.

The Governor said that he would reflect on the Chief Minister's points and not enter the text of his statement in the minutes until he had done so.

FURTHER STATEMENT BY HE THE GOVERNOR ON 12TH JANUARY 2012

Following further discussion in Executive Council, HE The Governor made the following statement:-

"I fully accept that under Anguilla's internal self-government the decision on whether to reimburse the Chief Minister EC \$40,000 for his telephone bills from November 1997 to March 2000 during his previous time in office is one for the elected Ministers. But I should like to dissociate myself from the decision on the grounds that too much time has elapsed and that no clear audit trail has been presented to EXCO. Even if the Chief Minister originally raised the issue soon

after he left office in 2000, the need for a proper audit trail remains, particularly for such a large claim during our current fiscal challenges."

Action: HE; HON CM

EX MIN 12/18

EX MIN 12/04 EX MEM 11/393 INTEGRATED CUSTOMS TARIFF (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS, 2010

EX MIN 12/04 of 5 January 2012 refers.

Mr Kenrick Richardson, Comptroller of Customs joined the Meeting.

Council agreed that Chapter 8487.10 in the Harmonised System (HS) 2007 should now be 0% for Ships, Propellers and Blades.

Action: AG; COC

EX MIN 12/19

EX MIN 12/07 EX MEM 12/03 REASSIGNMENT OF VEHICLES

Further to EX MIN 12/07 of 5 January 2012, Council had further discussion on the matter.

Council agreed that:-

- (i) MICUH should look for a replacement for the G9 vehicle as a matter of urgency;
- (ii) MICUH should encourage more Departments to pool vehicles, given the tough economic times.

Action: PS, MICUH

OUTSTANDING ITEM FOR EXCO

1. EX MIN 08/761 IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR POLICY
of 11 December 2008

Action: PS, MHA; AG

EX MIN 12/20

EX MEM 12/08 COMPENSATION FOR MISSING GOODS FOR JOSE SOSA

Comptroller of Customs remained for discussion.

Council agreed Mr Jose Sosa should be compensated the sum of US\$1,025.89 for the cost of a missing item at the post Office.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDICT; PMG; COC

ORAL MENTION

EX MIN 12/21

SIGNING OF 2012 BUDGET

HE The Governor signed the documents on 12 January 2012 recording his assent to the 2011 Appropriation Bill covering the budget for 2012. The documents have been sent for gazetting. Copies of a letter dated 12 January 2012 from HE were issued to Members of Executive Council acknowledging signature of the documents and outlining other budgetary issues.

Action: HE; MINS OF GOV'T; PS, FIN; PS, EDICT

EX MIN 12/24

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Council agreed that there should be a Special Meeting of Executive Council on Friday 13 January at 9:00 am to discuss the Temenos MoU, pending a response from Ms Tara Ruan, Solicitor.

Action: PS, EDICT; PS, MHA/LANDS; EXCO MEMBERS
