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**MINUTES OF THE 227TH MEETING OF THE ELEVENTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 2ND APRIL 2020
AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: His Excellency The Governor, Mr Timothy Foy, OBE

The Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance, Economic Development,
Commerce, Tourism and Information Technology, Mr Victor Banks

The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley

The Honourable Minister of Health and Social Development, Lands and Physical
Planning, Mr Evans Rogers

The Honourable Minister of Home Affairs and Education, Mrs Cora Richardson-
Hodge

The Honourable Minister of Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities, Housing,
Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment, Mr Curtis Richardson

The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford

Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Jewelle Fleming, MBE

IN ATTENDANCE: Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Cardigan Connor
Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister, MHA, Mrs Evalie Bradley
Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
PS, Home Affairs and Education, Mrs Chanelle Petty Barrett
PS, Finance, Dr Aidan Harrigan
Comptroller of Customs, Mr Travis Carty

EX MIN 20/159

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister, MHA and
Financial Specialist remained.

Council confirmed the Minutes of Special Meetings held on Sunday 22 March,
Tuesday 24 March, Wednesday 25 March, Thursday 26 March, Friday 27 March and
Monday 30 March, and the Minutes of the 226th Meeting of Executive Council held on
Thursday 26 March 2020.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 20/162

EX MEM 20/90 COVID-19 RESPONSE – CUSTOMS DUTY AND TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister, MHA and Financial Specialist remained. The following persons joined:

PS, Finance, Dr Aidan Harrigan
Comptroller of Customs, Mr Travis Carty

Council:

- (i) agreed to exempt the items listed below from import customs duty, interim goods tax, and administrative fee for an initial period of three (3) months effective 13 April 2020:

Cleaning Supplies

Hand Sanitizers
Hand Sanitizer Dispensers
Bleach
Disinfectant wipes
Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol)
Disinfectant Sprays
Toilet Paper
Adult Pampers
Under pads (disposable)
Under pads (reusable)
Baby Pampers (Diapers)
Sanitary Napkins
Hand Soap/Antibacterial Soap
Baby Wipes/Kleenex/Paper Towels
Liquid Disinfectants
Garbage Bags
Dishwashing Liquid
Cleaning Cloths
Laundry Detergent
Gloves (disposable)
Masks
Nebulizers
Medications (flu, fever & cold)
PPE (personal protective clothing, headgear, shoe-covers etc)

Food

Rice
Brown Sugar
White Sugar
Flour
Chicken
Milk
Fresh or chilled vegetables

Can vegetables
 Fresh or chilled fruits
 Can fruits
 Water

- (ii) authorised the release of such goods in advance of the regulations being finalised;
- (iii) instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to draft Regulations to facilitate the waiver of customs duties under Section 76 of the Customs Act in respect of the goods listed above;
- (iv) instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to draft Regulations to waive the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Costs Recovery Act in respect of the exempted goods listed above;
- (v) instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to draft Regulations to facilitate the waiver of interim goods tax under Sections 6 and 7 of the Interim Goods Tax Act to permit the waiver of interim goods tax in respect of the goods listed above; and
- (vi) instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to draft an Order under the Distribution and Price of Goods Act to fix the method by which the maximum price may be ascertained for the goods listed above as:
 - (a) CIF plus 20pc markup for wholesale goods; and
 - (b) CIF plus 40pc markup for retail sales of goods

The Hon Minister for Home Affairs abstained from this decision.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the minutes.

Action: PS, FIN; HON AG; PS, EDICTIT; COC; PAS, FIN; BD; CIR; DM;
 ACC GEN; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 20/163

EX MEM 20/91 TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT AND OTHER SUPPORT MEASURES FOR EMPLOYEES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister, MHA, Financial Specialist and PS, Finance remained. PS, Home Affairs and Education, Mrs Chanelle Petty Barrett joined.

Further to EX MIN 20/158 of 30 March, Council:

- (i) approved the establishment of a temporary unemployment benefit for a period of three months in the first instance commencing 30 April 2020, to be paid through the Social Security Fund as follows:
 - (a) unemployed persons – EC\$1000 a month;

- (b) underemployed persons - difference between EC\$1000 and monthly salary;
 - (c) all the other terms and conditions of the benefit.
- (ii) approved the proposal for the establishment of special leave with corresponding benefit (payable by employers and Social Security in a ratio of 40:60) for persons:
 - (a) in self quarantine, or;
 - (b) in quarantine or isolation in a Government facility;
 - (c) caring for persons in quarantine.
 - (iii) directed the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the necessary legislation to give effect to the approved measures.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the minutes.

Action: PS, MHA/LAB; DIR, SSB; HON AG; PS, FIN; PS, EDICTIT; PAS, FIN;
BD; ACC GEN; MINS OF GOV'T

ORAL MENTION

EX MIN 20/164

EXTENSION OF DUTY FREE CONCESSIONS FOR THE IMPORTATION OF LAPTOPS AND LEARNING MATERIALS

Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister, MHA and Financial Specialist remained.

Council agreed that duty exemption on laptops and learning materials for use by students should be extended to include students from primary school to third form at the Alben Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School.

Action: PS, MHA/ED; CEO; ESP; COC; PS, FIN; PAS, FIN; BD; ACC GEN;
HON MIN MHA/ED

EX MIN 20/165

DEFERRAL OF CUSTOMS DUTIES

Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister, MHA and Financial Specialist remained.

To minimize the impact on businesses, as a result of COVID-19, Council:

- (i) agreed that effective 6 April, the payment of customs duties and related taxes and fees as may apply (Interim Goods Tax (IGT), Excise Tax (ET), Customs Service Fee (CSF) should be deferred, for up to three months, on all imports by select traders;

- (ii) agreed that the deferral is to be assessed on a month-to-month basis with importers expected to pay up at the end of first month before a subsequent month's worth of deferred shipments are allowed; and
- (iii) noted that the Customs Department would determine those select traders, based on trading volume and compliance with all applicable customs laws, policies and procedures.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the minutes.

Action: PS, FIN; COC; DCOC; PS, EDICTIT; PAS, FIN; BD; CIR; ACC GEN
