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**MINUTES OF THE 29<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021 AT 8.30AM**

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

EX MIN 21/36

**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 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Council noted that:

- 1) the AG's Chambers will finalise the Regulations to facilitate hotels remitting arrival fees to the Government of Anguilla on behalf of guests, by February 5;
- 2) in relation to EX MIN 20/468, the transfer of responsibility for unemployment assistance benefit is complete;
- 3) in relation to EX MIN 21/24 the PSC Regulations Advertisement of Vacancies will be signed on February 4; and
- 4) in relation to EX MIN 21/30 H.E. the Governor confirmed the details of the FSC's travel budget. The FSC intend to make an adjustment at the next board meeting.

EX MIN 21/37

**EX MEM 21/13 EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SALARY REDUCTION BILL**

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

The Hon Premier briefed Council. On May 4, 2020, Executive Council considered a number of policy decisions in an effort to address some of the financial constraints caused because of COVID-19. In Ex Min 20/208, Council decided to reduce ministerial salaries by 15%. The reduction was effective from May 2020 until December 31, 2020. The relevant legislation was drafted and passed in the House of Assembly.

Due to the pandemic, which has restricted revenues, it is recommended that the 15% reduction in salaries for Ministers and other Members of Parliament continue for another year.

Council:

- 1) noted that this measure will provide savings in the 2021 budget of EC\$327,906.00;
- 2) agreed to extend the 15% salary reduction for Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition and other Elected Members, for an additional year effective January 2021 to December 2021;
- 3) instructed the AG's Chambers to draft the required Regulation for review by Executive Council at the next meeting on February 11; and
- 4) instructed the AG's Chambers to prepare the Regulation for tabling at the next session of the House of Assembly.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, AG; HON, PREM; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/38

**EX MEM 21/19 AGRICULTURE LAND TENURE POLICY**

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

The Hon Minister for Economic Development briefed Council. The fee structure for the use of arable land has remained the same for 40 years. Presently, there is refreshed interest in farming and food security. The proposed Agriculture Land Tenure Policy is intended to further the following objectives:

- a) protect and preserve arable Crown land for agricultural purposes;
- b) increase participation in farming by encouraging new farmers, new practices and technology;

- c) establish a framework for the distribution or redistribution of Crown land for agricultural purposes; and
- d) establish an improved regime for the provision of land preparation services for farmers.

The policy measures proposed to achieve these objectives include:

- a) the reservation of designated lands for agricultural purposes;
- b) supporting investment in new technology, capacity building and backyard farming;
- c) establishing an application process, criteria and licence agreements with conditions for the use of Crown Land;
- d) increasing fees for the use of Crown land and for tractor services; and
- e) special consideration for protected agriculture and livestock farming.

Council approved:

- 1) the Agriculture Land Tenure Policy;
- 2) the new fees for use of Crown land for agricultural purposes effective July 1, 2021, as follows:-

## Land Plots

Acreage	Current Cost per annum XCD	Current Cost per month XCD	Proposed Cost per annum XCD	Proposed Cost per month XCD
1 acre	10.00	0.83	1000.00	83.33
½ acre	5.00	0.42	600.00	50.00
¼ acre	2.50	0.20	300.00	25.00

- 3) the new fees for tractor services effective March 1, 2021, as follows:-

## Tractor Services

Service	Current Fee XCD per ½ acre and under	Proposed Regular Fee XCD per ½ acre and under	Proposed Special Fee <sup>1</sup> XCD per ½ acre and under
Full preparation	200.00	400.00	150.00
One operation	50.00	150.00	50.00

Action: PS, EDCITENR; HON, MIN EDCITENR

EX MIN 21/39

### **EX MEM 21/20 UPDATE ON PREPARATION FOR THE ANGUILLA POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS 2021 (AP&H CENSUS 2021)**

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

Council noted the brief of the Hon Minister for Economic Development on the status of the Anguilla Statistics Departments (ASD) preparations for the AP&H Census 2021. The recommendation of the Ministry is to delay the census to May 2022 and secure funding in the interim.

## Council:

- 1) noted that a clear direction from Executive Council was previously given on August 27, 2020, in Ex Min 20/354, not to delay the AP&H Census;
- 2) noted the current status as it relates to preparation for Anguilla's next AP&H Census and the request of the ASD to delay the AP&H Census to May 2022;
- 3) noted that clarity is required as it relates to the specific steps taken in order to advance the directive given in Ex Min 20/354. There must be accountability for progressing tasks that are assigned;
- 4) noted that delaying the census is less than desirable and doing so is a deviation from standard practice. If the census does not take place, there is a direct impact on other areas. The AP&H Census provides data that is vital for Work Plans, social development, assessments of poverty, Constitutional Reform and the National Development Plan. The voters list also needs to be developed;
- 5) further noted that as work for the AP&H Census 2021 proceeds, it would be beneficial to have a full understanding of the lessons learnt from the last census, there are some tasks that remain incomplete; and
- 6) agreed that it is expected that the ASD will continue working to advance the directive given in Ex Min 20/354, because once the resources are in place it is anticipated that the AP&H Census will proceed in 2021, as scheduled.

Action: PS, EDCITENR; HON, MIN EDCITENR; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/40

**EX MEM 21/21 APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO USE A PORTION OF CROWN LAND SITUATED IN REGISTRATION SECTION NORTH CENTRAL, BLOCK 48814 B, PARCEL 281 (PART OF) ON A TEMPORARY BASIS**

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

The Hon Minister for Home Affairs briefed Council. By letter dated December 30, 2020 addressed to Mr. Leslie Hodge, Director of Lands & Surveys, the Applicant made an application to regularize the use of Crown land. The applicant applied for a temporary licence to use a part of Crown land located along the Coronation Avenue sidewalk.

Council agreed to grant a licence, subject to the following terms:

- 1) payment of rent in the sum of US\$100 (EC\$268.82) per month for the licence term of six (6) months; and
- 2) that the Applicant operates the business in compliance with the Environmental Health Unit's sanitation requirements and also in accordance with the terms and conditions of the applicants Business Licence.

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

EX MIN 21/41

**EX MEM 21/22 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION NORTH, BLOCK 58715 B, PARCEL 192 CONTAINING 1.00 ACRE**

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 grant an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold property situated in Registration Section North, Block 58715 B, described as Parcel 192 located in Roaches Hill for private residential purposes, subject to:

(a)	payment of the following stamp duties:	
(i)	under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$3,324,631.35	EC\$166,231.57
(ii)	under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$3,324,631.35	EC\$166,231.57
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>EC\$332,463.14</u></b>

- (b) the Applicant is to be granted an exemption from the Governments Policy which restricts Aliens from purchasing more than half an acre of land, on the grounds that the land is already alienated; and
- (c) the express condition that the land is to be used for residential purposes and that the Licencee must not rent their dwelling house without first notifying the Ministry of Finance.

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

EX MIN 21/42

**EX MEM 21/23 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR AQUA LOUNGE**

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

The Hon Premier and Hon Minister for EDCITENR briefed Council. The applicants have submitted an application for duty and tax exemption on items to be imported for finalizing the Aqua Lounge project, which is approximately 80% complete. The intention is to enhance Anguilla's tourism product by offering a new type of experience, that is, a floating restaurant. The granting of concessions of this nature is an established custom and there are economic benefits.



Council:

- 1) noted that an audit of all businesses receiving concessions is required;
- 2) noted that as this concession is to be granted within the UKG revenue support period the concession is liable to be deducted from the revenue support unless prior approval is granted by the UKG;
- 3) noted that the goods are in Anguilla but have not been released, therefore no refund is required as a result of granting the concession;
- 4) further noted that all environmental and Health and Safety requirements have been satisfied and the necessary licenses and approvals granted;
- 5) agreed to grant the duty exemption which results in foregoing duty and tax of EC\$191,627.09, effective from November 26, 2020; and
- 6) further agreed that the applicants will pay the usual 5% administrative fee.

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

Action: PS, FIN; PAS; HON, AG; HON, MIN FIN

EX MIN 21/43

**COVID-19 & ASTRAZENEC/AOXFORD 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 Hon Premier briefed Council. Salient points as follows: -

- Over 100 million COVID-19 cases and 2 million deaths have been reported globally. Anguilla has recorded 18 confirmed cases to date. Currently there are 2 active cases; with the

arrival of a visiting technician from the USA on Wednesday 3, February.

- There are persons currently in quarantine at home and the Government of Anguilla facility.
- Testing for COVID-19 continues with both the Cepheid testing system, for which there are approximately 1400 test kits remaining and the Open Platform PCR testing system, for which there are approximately 7000 test kits remaining. Currently, with the Open Platform PCR system, 20 tests can be processed at a time and it will be possible to process up to 90 tests when the system is fully operational. There is a second Cepheid machine, which needs to be certified prior to use.
- The AstraZenca/Oxford vaccine left London yesterday and is arriving at 10.00 am this morning. It will be stored at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. The vaccine programme starts at 10.00 am on 5<sup>th</sup> February with elected representatives, H.E. the Governor, the Hon Deputy Governor, Healthcare workers and a group of 25 people aged 25 - 75 years old designated by the Hon Parliamentary Secretary.
- 1928 persons have registered for the vaccine and work is ongoing to increase the number of registrants. From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February persons who have signed up will be contacted with further information. The campaign continues and whilst the different media being used are effective, it has become apparent that there must be a focus on talking to people one to one. The Parliamentary Secretary is working to further develop this part of the campaign.

Council agreed that in relation to Ex Min 21/34 the Hon Attorney General will provide an update at the next meeting of Executive Council on expediting charges for breach of quarantine protocols.

Action: PS, HLTH; PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC, GEN;  
HON, DG; HON, AG; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/44

**STATUTORY BODIES UPDATE**

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

The Hon Deputy Governor briefed Council. Salient points as follows:-

**Fee Regulations for Water Corporation of Anguilla & Health Authority of Anguilla**

The fee Regulations for the WCA have been signed and the fee Regulations for the HAA will be ready for signature by next week.

**Status of Quarterly Reports**

The Finance team are to be commended. For the first time in 40 years, the quarterly reports of the Statutory Bodies have been submitted to Executive Council for consideration. The reports will be published and this is a step forward in achieving openness and transparency. It is fully anticipated that as the process develops further the formatting and accessibility of the information will improve.

**Budgets in standard format**

The budgets in standard form have been completed. The budgets of the Anguilla Development Board and the Anguilla Social Security Board, which were previously discussed, will be approved at the next meeting of Executive Council.

**Board of Director's training and certification**

The examination for board members took place as scheduled on Friday 29, January. The examination results will be shared once received by the Dean of the Anguilla Community College.

Some ANGLEC board members will repeat the training.

**Work Plans**

All departments have submitted Work Plans. The actions detailed in the Work Plans need to be prioritised. The Work Plans will be used

by the Permanent Secretaries to formulate their respective forward looks.

Action: PERM SECS; MINS OF GOV'T

**ORAL MENTION**

EX MIN 21/45

**PENDING LEGAL CASES**

The Hon Attorney General provided Council with an update on pending cases.

Action: HON, AG; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/46

**ANGUILLA PUBLIC SERVICE UPDATE**

Council noted that going forward there will be a review of a quarterly report on how the Public Service is meeting its objectives. The Work Plans and Public Service performance may be reviewed together, with a view to considering how the Public Service needs to operate in order to deliver the objectives in the Work Plans.

Action: H.E. GOV; HON, DG; MINS OF GOV'T

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