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**MINUTES OF THE 53<sup>rd</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2021 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 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
- ABSENT: Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull

EX MIN 21/234

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

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

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

In relation to Ex Min 21/229, concerning the Electricity Supply (Amendment) Regulations the Hon Attorney General's advice is awaited.

EX MIN 21/235

**COVID-19 & ASTRAZENECA/OXFORD VACCINE UPDATE**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development and Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education remained. The following persons joined the meeting: -

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers  
 Chief Medical Officer (Ag), Dr Lishaw Ward  
 Director of the CDU – Mrs Twyla Richarson-Bradshaw  
 Health Planner – Ms Rochelle Rogers

**Epidemiology*****Global overview***

According to the WHO Situation Report of July 21, global COVID-19 cases have increased by 12% over the past week to 3.4 million new cases, with 57,000 new deaths over the past week. All WHO regions except the region of the Americas reported significant increases in new cases compared to last week. The highest recorded increase in new cases is in the Western Pacific, European and South East Asian regions. The highest recorded increase in mortality is found in the South East Asian (12%) and Western Pacific (10%) regions, relative to last week.

The WHO notes that the current emerging variants, coupled with the relaxation of public health and social measures, the increase in social mixing and mobility, along with sub-optimal vaccination coverage in many countries is contributing to rapid increases in new cases, hospitalization and deaths, in many countries across the globe.

In particular, the Delta VOC continues to be recorded in new countries. The WHO report notes that there is growing evidence of the increased transmissibility of this variant. Further studies from China indicate that the variant has a shorter average incubation period than non-VOC, and that a higher viral load is identified in the first positive test than for non-VOC. This suggests greater levels of infectiousness in the early stages of infection with COVID-19.

Research from Canada suggests that there is increased risk of hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths in persons infected by the Delta VOC compared to non-VOC. In the USA, the CDC now estimates that the Delta variant has become the predominant COVID-19 strain, responsible for up to 83% of new cases. The increase in cases is widespread across states but is most significantly observed in states/regions of the USA with lower vaccination uptake rates.

### ***Caribbean Region***

The Caribbean region continues to record an increase in cases, with a 2% increase over the previous week. Several countries are experiencing cluster outbreaks and community transmission of the virus, with increasing hospitalizations and deaths.

### ***Anguilla***

On July 15 and 18, Anguilla recorded two new active cases of COVID-19, in 1 fully vaccinated female visitor from the USA and 1 minor female returning resident who travelled from the UK respectively.

As of July 21, Anguilla has recorded a total of 113 confirmed cases with 111 recoveries and 2 active cases. There are 22 persons currently in quarantine and additional persons under surveillance (children and other persons requiring Day 4 testing). From July 1 to

July 18, there have been 4238 arrivals into Anguilla via air and seaports.

On July 17, CARPHA notified the Ministry of Health that the Delta variant was sequenced from a case identified on July 1. The Ministry has arranged to send samples from the new cases recorded on July 15 and 18 for sequencing at CARPHA.

### **Vaccination Deployment Update**

As of July 21, there were 9792 registered persons of which 9396 persons had received their first dose, representing 75% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 8578 persons (68% of target) have received their second dose. In a population estimate of 15,500 total persons this would represent 61% of the population having received the first dose and 55% having received two doses. This is below the 70% minimum threshold for herd immunity. The breakdown by occupation of first doses is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 523 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1788 Hospitality
- 1070 Retired
- 5664 Others

Using 2011 census age demographics, the breakdown of individuals who have received the vaccine by age, is as follows:

- 2877 persons age 18 - 34
- 2808 persons age 35 - 49
- 2423 persons age 50 - 64
- 1274 persons age 65+

The team is following up with persons who have missed their second doses. Some persons have left Anguilla and some persons may have obtained a second dose elsewhere.

### **Vaccine Stock**

On July 21, 2000 doses due to expire on July 31 were donated to the Government of the Bahamas, with the support of the UK Government.

Therefore, as of July 21, there were 1768 doses remaining with an expiry date of July 31. First and second doses shall continue to be issued up until July 30.

### **HAA Laboratory**

The HAA has received the HEPA Filters and the replacement motor for the biosafety cabinet. Two technicians are due to arrive around July 27, to repair the cabinet.

### **COVID-19 Exit Strategy**

The COVID-19 Exit Strategy has always been predicated on two major assumptions: the attainment of herd immunity and the continued improvement in the global and regional epidemiological situation. Unfortunately, with the emergence of the worsening variants of concern, in particular the Delta variant, and the current suboptimal level of vaccination in Anguilla, the present measures in place leave Anguilla exceedingly vulnerable to the importation and subsequent spread of the Delta Variant. Since the implementation of the July 1 measures, the Ministry has thus far recorded 4 cases; 2 through arrival testing and 2 on required Day 4 testing and departure testing respectively.

The Ministry of Health is strongly recommending the implementation and variation of measures to include:

- 1) four day quarantine for ALL fully vaccinated adults and fully vaccinated adults arriving with unvaccinated minors into Anguilla;
- 2) that mandatory vaccination be required for workers in hospitality, healthcare, ports of entry and other positions where there is unavoidable close contact with recently arrived persons; and

3) testing on arrival and day 4.

The Ministry has also increased the resilience of the team managing the entry portal, with the addition of two persons to assist with approvals. Additionally, three more people will be trained.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for the continued hard work and the efforts made to protect Anguilla;
- 2) noted the health teams update that there are 4050 open platform testing kits left and 3420 closed platform testing kits remaining, a total of 7470, which should last approximately one month. More test kits are expected. Configuration of the website to enable persons who are going to turn 18 to register their interest is ongoing. Noted that the resilience of the approvals team has been improved, however, the applications tend to be received at certain peak periods and the teams scheduling needs to align with this. If persons have to be seconded to achieve the mandate, this has to be worked through and achieved;
- 3) noted that there is some confusion surrounding when red and yellow bands may be removed by persons. In relation to both of these matters, procedures, communication about the process and inter-departmental communication needs to be strengthened, by the health team;
- 4) noted that the manual process of cross-checking and issuing notification of arrival tests results needs to be revised and strengthened, by the health team. Whilst the majority of persons are receiving timely results, some persons are waiting too long to receive results. Presently there is a heavy reliance on manual labour to perform the necessary tasks. Sometimes the results are available, but the chain of communication in relaying those results is broken. The system works fairly well for the large properties as all test results are shared with a central point of contact. More difficulties arise where applications for entry are

completed by an agent or by a third-party on behalf of the arriving passenger. For example, an airline may make the application for all passengers, but then the test results have to be provided individually, so contact details have to be identified;

- 5) noted that presently approximately 15k persons are forecast to arrive for the period October 31 to December 31, 2021. The Hon Deputy Governor is supervising the work of DITES to ensure that operations and systems run optimally. In the interests of efficiency labour will be divided, so that tasks requiring medical knowledge and tasks requiring administrative skills are clearly separated;
- 6) noted that as it relates to the August week boat races the major concern is the inability to adequately monitor persons who may gather on the beaches, the participants on the boat are less of a concern. Protocols for the management of the boat racing are being considered and this may include testing, requirement of a manifest and not allowing tourists to participate on the boats. The health team and the Ministry of Social Development will work together to establish the protocols to manage the risks, as it relates to COVID-19 for boat racing activities. No boats from Sint Maarten/St Martin are permitted to participate in the boat racing activities and no activity is permitted in the waters to the south of Anguilla;
- 7) noted that protocols have been approved for the Poker Run, Confetti party and also the Street Poker Run;
- 8) noted the health teams new recommendations, which are based on the 4 positive cases identified since July 1 and the high level of interaction that can occur between certain persons working in key areas and a positive person. While some persons test positive others may be flagged on testing as incubating a possible infection (a new infection starting or an old one ending). The suggested start date for the new recommendations is the end of the month. This would have a negative impact on the tourism industry. It also does not align with the reinstatement in around mid-August of day trips by ferry to Sint Maarten/St Martin; and this recommendation is now withdrawn by the health team;

- 9) the health team must prepare a paper which fully considers the management of risks; and
- 10) reviewed the existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on July 30 and approved amendment, in accordance with the de-escalation plan and extension of the following from 31 July 2021 until 31 August 2021:
  - a) Public Health (Regulation of Ports) Regulations;
  - b) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations;
  - c) Public Health (Quarantine) (COVID-19) Regulations;
  - d) Quarantine (COVID-19) (Arriving Passengers Health Clearance) Rules;
  - e) Emergency (COVID-19 Border Control) Regulations;
  - f) Public Health (Landing of Passengers) (Special Exemptions) Regulations; and
  - g) Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021.

Council authorised 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 21/236

**EX MEM 21/131 AMENDMENTS TO GST BILL**

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

On July 6, 2021, Council were presented with proposed amendments to the GST Bill that went before the House of Assembly on March 23, 2021 for the 1<sup>st</sup> reading. In Ex Min 21/217 Council considered and approved certain amendments to the GST Bill. In Ex



Min 21/228 Council considered and approved the Committee Stage Amendments motion and revised GST Bill, subject to certain amendments being made.

Council:

- 1) noted the updated timeline for enactment of the Bill for GST and that the Minister for Finance will respond to the Select Committee Report by July 27;
- 2) ratified the decision to approve the Committee Stage Amendments, which was taken by Round Robin via email on July 20;
- 3) approved the draft Bill for Goods and Services Tax;
- 4) instructed the IRD to collaborate with the AG's Chambers to present the Committee Stage Amendments to the House of Assembly by July 23, 2021, and also to complete the amendment and revision of the GST Bill; and
- 5) further instructed the AG's Chambers to prepare the Bill for tabling at the House of Assembly on July 29, 2021, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings.

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

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

EX MIN 21/237

**EX MEM 21/132 A BILL TO AMEND THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION ACT ('PPCAA') AND PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS**

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

The Hon Premier briefed Council. The Government currently has a procurement website where procurement opportunities are publicized and information pertaining to the public procurement framework is provided. However, this does not constitute the enabling of public e-procurement. It is therefore necessary to move forward with the digitization of procurement opportunities to improve access, lower costs and ensure the resiliency of public procurement, particularly in the current climate where social distancing is the required protocol. There is a need to consider the procurement function and how it can be maintained, without unnecessary exposure to bidders and Government staff engaged in the procurement processes.

External consultants are reviewing Anguilla's procurement legislation, the objective is to suggest modifications to the legislation, to allow for the improved administration of public procurement. E-procurement is intended to be one of those amendments. However, the recommendations of the review are not currently available and will not be for some time. Pending the review, to ensure that public procurement can continue uninterrupted, it is recommended that minor amendments to Anguilla's existing public procurement legislation are advanced, in order to permit e-procurement.

The proposed amendments are as follows:

- To allow procuring entities (Ministries, Departments and Statutory Bodies) to conduct micro value procurements of less than EC\$4k, without needing to channel such procurements through a Procurement Committee.
- To permit e-tendering, electronic submission of bids and proposals, as well as conducting public openings electronically.
- To expand the scope of the PPCAA to apply to Statutory Bodies.
- Create offences for financial misconduct, in relation to failure to comply with the provisions of the legislation, with provision for financial penalties and/or imprisonment.

Council:

- 1) noted that the Hon Deputy Governor will supervise the Ministry of Finance in a piece of work, to identify the best process to share bid information publicly, in order to improve transparency;
- 2) noted that the procurement process needs to be revisited. The due diligence especially as it relates to financial capacity, needs to be conducted at an earlier stage in the process. It would be advantageous to be able to draw on prior experiences with parties, in order to inform future decisions. At times product delivery is below standard and work needs to be done to build capacity within Anguilla;
- 3) approved the following, subject to amendment, to extend the application of the provisions to ANGLEC:
  - a) a Bill to amend the Public Procurement and Contract Administration Act; and
  - b) the Public Procurement and Contract Administration (Amendment) Regulations 2021; and
- 4) instructed the AG's Chambers to prepare the Bill for tabling at the next sitting of the House of Assembly and the Regulation for execution.

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

EX MIN 21/240

**EX MEM 21/135 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR ARIJAH CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION**

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

Council:

- 1) indicated its appreciation for the excellent work that is done by the Arijah Children's Foundation, to support special needs children in Anguilla;
- 2) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Ms Renuka Harrigan/Arijah Children's Foundation on the importation of a case of nutritional supplement and a case of youth diapers;
- 3) noted that there is no administrative fee payable; and
- 4) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$1,366.56.

Action: PS, FIN; CIR; HON, PREM

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