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MINUTES OF THE 81st MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17th MARCH 2022 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: Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social
Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson
- ABSENT: Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,
Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie

EX MIN 22/90

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 80th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 10th March, 2022.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 22/91

COVID-19 UPDATE

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

The following persons joined:

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
 CMO, Dr Aisha Andrewin
 Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers

Epidemiology***Global overview***

Since the end of January 2022, case numbers have consistently decreased, however, the number of new weekly cases increased by 8% during the week of 7 - 13 March 2022. The number of new deaths continued to decrease by 17% as compared to the previous week. Across the six WHO regions, over 11 million new cases and just over 43,000 new deaths were reported. As of 13 March 2022, over 455 million confirmed cases and over 6 million deaths have been reported globally.

Update on the Emergence of Variant of Concern Omicron (B.1.1.529)

The current global epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 is characterized by the global dominance of the Omicron variant and Delta remains the only other named variant with reported circulation at non-negligible

levels. Among the 430,487 sequences uploaded to GISAID with specimens collected in the last 30 days, 429,994 (99.9%) were Omicron and 400 (0.1%) were Delta.

Caribbean Region

Since the previous report on March 7, an additional 29,942 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 30 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the regions total confirmed cases to 3,280,486 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States). The new total represents a 0.8% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 32,815 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as of March 14.

Anguilla

As of March 16, 2022, the total number of confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 is 2624 with 2593 recoveries, 9 deaths and 22 active cases. Three adult males aged over 70 (1 unvaccinated and 2 vaccinated) are currently admitted to the Isolation Unit.

Workforce considerations

Cognisant of the changes anticipated on April 1, the local epidemiological trends and the anticipated reduction in demand, the Ministry has begun a reorganization of staff. Therefore, starting on April 1, the Ministry will reduce COVID-19 staffing, across a range of positions from 39 to 24 persons. The staff concerned are those hired in late December/January.

Vaccination Deployment Update

Vaccine Uptake

As of March 11, 2022, 10,547 first doses and 9,603 second doses have been administered. In an estimated population of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 68% of the population having received

the first dose and 62% of the population having received two doses. In addition, this reflects 77% of the total eligible population (13,560) having received one dose and 71% having received two doses.

The breakdown by age of persons having received a first dose is as follows:

- 265 persons age 5 - 11
- 521 persons age 12 - 17
- 3068 persons age 18 - 34
- 2907 persons age 35 - 49
- 2484 persons age 50 - 64
- 1316 persons age 65+

The occupational breakdown of first doses is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 546 Civil and Border Protection
- 1834 Hospitality
- 1105 Retired
- 6655 Others

Distribution (Pfizer)

As of March 11, 3826 doses of Pfizer have been administered, this includes 955 first doses, 317 second doses and 2489 booster doses. This includes 265 first doses for children aged 5 – 11 years old and second dose distribution is planned for the end of the month; and 521 first doses for 12 - 17 year olds, which represents roughly 40% of the estimated 12 – 17 year old population.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work;

- 2) noted the general decline in cases within schools. There was one outbreak in a Kindergarten class, with 5 children out of 17 testing positive, the classroom was air-conditioned;
- 3) noted the Ministry's intention to reduce the cadre of staff from 39 to 24 persons. Noted that in taking this action consideration had to be given to the expiration dates of the vaccines, any supplementary resourcing needs and the ability to maintain testing capacity, all of which has to be balanced. If demand were to increase in an area of COVID-19 healthcare services, there should be appropriate resourcing in place;
- 4) noted the Ministry's update on the resourcing plan for vaccine distribution taking into consideration external resourcing options and the indication that given other factors such as liability and capacity; and the present low demand for vaccination, there was no need for recourse to external resources at this time;
- 5) agreed that the Government shall consider methods to further promote vaccination and formulate a plan to boost vaccination rates, especially among children aged 5 – 17 years old;
- 6) agreed that the PS Health with the Anguilla Public Service shall work through a plan to efficiently collect revenue generated by arrival testing fees at the ports of entry;
- 7) agreed that in order to harmonize vaccination status with global counterparts **fully vaccinated** shall be defined as having received the last dose in the primary series more than 14 days prior to arrival date;
- 8) agreed that the Ministry shall present the marketing collateral and communication material to be used for public dissemination of the Exit Strategy, to Council on March 24, for approval prior to publication. Council members should be sighted on this material prior to Council, in order to facilitate publication of the Exit Strategy on March 25; and

9) approved the Exit Strategy as follows:-

REVISED EXIT STRATEGY PART 2 – RECOMMENDATIONS AS OF APRIL 1ST

- I. All fully vaccinated* travelers 18 years and older will no longer have to apply for entry via the portal, once presenting evidence of full vaccination with an approved vaccine and a negative COVID-19 test; that is an NAA/PCR/RNA test taken within 3 days of travel or a rapid antigen test taken within 2 days of travel. This information is presented to the aircraft, ship, agent or fixed based operator.
- II. Arrival testing will be discontinued for persons who have been fully vaccinated within the last six months and for persons who have taken a booster dose, where completion of the primary series (full vaccination) occurred six months or more prior to arrival, a valid pre-arrival negative test result must be presented. Unvaccinated visitors under 18 years old are only permitted to enter Anguilla, if accompanied by fully vaccinated travelers. The exemption for pregnant women is removed given that several COVID-19 vaccines are approved for use in pregnancy.
- III. Vaccinated adults and minors, who were fully vaccinated with a complete primary course more than 6 months prior, but have not had a booster dose are still considered fully vaccinated and will not need to apply for entry via the portal. They shall be subject to testing on arrival, at their own expense and a valid negative pre-arrival test result must be presented.
- IV. Persons arriving into Anguilla without the appropriate documentation (proof of vaccination and test results) will be required to return to their country of origin; and if it is not possible to return, they shall complete arrival and exit tests, and quarantine for 5 days at their own expense. Each visitor that is allowed to quarantine shall pay the Government of Anguilla a fee of USD\$200.
- V. Unvaccinated returning residents will be required to apply on the entry portal, test on arrival, quarantine for 5 days and

receive a negative test result to exit quarantine. Accordingly, the fee is reduced to USD\$100 per person.

- VI. Unvaccinated returning residents under the age of 5 years old, who are accompanied by fully vaccinated travelers will not be required to quarantine, but a Day 4 test will be administered.
- VII. Unvaccinated visitors who have been granted a medical exemption will be required to apply on the entry portal, test on arrival, quarantine for 5 days and receive a negative test result to exit quarantine. Accordingly, the fee is reduced to USD\$100 per person.
- VIII. Further, stricter enforcement of the regulations applicable to aircraft and sea craft operators as it pertains to carrying persons without proper documentation, including information to the effect that they must return visitors in breach of entry requirements.

*Fully vaccinated is defined as having received the last dose in the primary series more than 14 days prior to the arrival date.

Council authorized 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 22/92

EX MEMO 22/61 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION NORTH, BLOCK 59018 B, PARCEL 13 CONTAINING 4 ACRES

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

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold property situated in Registration Section North, Block 59018 B,

described as Parcel 13 located in Shoal Bay, for tourism purposes, subject to:

(a) Stamp duties payable are as follows:

(i) under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$10,752,800.00	EC\$537,640.00
(ii) under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 6.25% of EC\$10,752,800.00	EC\$672,050.00
TOTAL	<u>EC\$1,209,690.00</u>

(b) to develop a 5 star luxury resort being a minimum of 15 bedrooms for tourism purposes;

(c) the construction of the development shall be completed within sixty (60) months. If the development is not completed within the stipulated time, a penalty of EC\$15,000.00 shall apply for each calendar month or part thereof that the project remains uncompleted provided there is no significant justification for the delay against the Applicant;

(d) that the Licensee shall negotiate a MOU with the Government of Anguilla within three (3) months of the grant of the Aliens Land Holding Licence;

(e) the Licensee shall, during the period of construction, permit the authorised officers or agents of the Government of Anguilla access to the land to inspect the site and works on site;

(f) the Licensee shall allow public access to the beach and foreshore and public parking, which is accepted and approved by the Government of Anguilla; and

(g) the Licensee shall be granted an exemption from

Governments Policy which restricts Aliens to the purchase of no more than half an acre of land, on the grounds that the property is to be used for tourism purposes; and

(h) the Licensee shall fully comply with the laws of Anguilla.

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

EX MIN 22/94

EX MEMO 22/63 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR EBENEZER METHODIST CHURCH

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to Ebenezer Methodist Church on the importation of kitchen furnishings and equipment for church use;
- 2) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 3) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$1,564.28; and
- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolution of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169 and section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019.

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

EX MIN 22/96

EX MEMO 22/65 APPLICATION FOR DUTY AND TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE MILL HOUSE ANGUILLA

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

Council:

- 1) agreed that duty and tax exemptions should be granted to the Mill House on the importation of items for use in a café business;
- 2) agreed that the administrative fee under the Customs Administrative Cost Recovery Act should apply;
- 3) noted that the estimated duty and tax loss to the Government is EC\$19,356.56; and
- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare the required Resolution of the House of Assembly, pursuant to section 77(1) of the Customs Act, R.S.A. c. C 169 and section 6A of the Interim Goods Tax Act, 2019.

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

EX MIN 22/97

EX MEMO 22/66 APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM ENTERTAINMENT TAX MOONSPLASH 2022

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

Council:

- 1) noted that in respect of every payment made for admission to an entertainment event a tax of 10% of the amount is levied;
- 2) noted that the grant of the requested tax exemption may result in tax loss of up to EC\$60,484.50;
- 3) approved the application by Moonsplash Productions for an exemption from entertainment tax for the Moonsplash 2022 music festival, the proceeds of which shall be used for the

costs of holding the event and philanthropic contributions in Anguilla; and

- 4) instructed the Ministry of Finance to prepare, for onward submission to the House of Assembly, the required Resolution for the remission of the Public Entertainment Tax associated with the sale of tickets to a maximum of EC\$60,484.50 in accordance with the Financial Administration and Audit Act.

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

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