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MINUTES OF THE 87th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 5th MAY 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: Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social
Development/Education, Mr Merrick Richardson
Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull
- ABSENT: Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development,
Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie

EX MIN 22/141

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

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

Pastor Cecil Richardson offered prayers for Anguilla's National Day of Prayer.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 86th Meeting of Executive Council held on Friday 29th April, 2022.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 22/142

COVID-19 UPDATE

Hon Special Ministerial Assistant to the Hon Minister for Social Development/ Education and Financial Specialist remained. The Governor of the ECCB, Mr Timothy Antoine and five ECCB team members joined. The following persons joined:

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
 CMO, Dr Aisha Andrewin
 Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
 DIR CDU, Mrs Twyla Richardson-Bradshaw

Epidemiology***Global overview***

Globally, the number of new COVID-19 cases and deaths has continued to decline since the end of March 2022. During the week of April 25 through to May 1, 2022, over 3.8 million cases and over 15,000 deaths were reported, decreases of 17% and 3% respectively, as compared to the previous week. Not all regions reported decreasing trends in the number of new weekly cases and deaths, some reported increases. As of May 1, 2022, over 500 million confirmed cases and over 6 million deaths have been reported globally.

SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Interest and Variants of Concern

The Omicron variant remains the dominant variant circulating globally, accounting for nearly all sequences recently reported to GISAID. Since its designation as a VOC by WHO on November 26, 2021, Omicron has continued to evolve, leading to variants with slightly different genetic constellations of mutations. Each constellation may differ in the public health risk it poses, including the change in epidemiology and or the severity profile.

Caribbean Region

CARPHA'S report of May 3, 2022, indicates a 1.4% increase in the number of confirmed cases since the previous report, with an additional 47,598 cases, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 3,475,012 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States). There were 33,395 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as of May 3, 2022.

Anguilla

As of May 3, Anguilla has confirmed 2,909 cases of COVID-19 of which 2,848 persons have recovered and 9 have died. There are currently 52 active cases and no persons presently admitted to the Isolation Unit.

The test positivity rate has remained well under 5% since the end of February. However, further to the uptick in cases, the positivity rate for last week was ~7.3% and around 90% were local cases. Additionally, the total number of cases as well as the proportion of imported cases are likely be underestimates at this time due to the revised testing protocols whereby fewer persons are being tested upon arrival.

Recently, one small outbreak was detected at a primary school involving one teacher and three children, thus far. Contact tracing and investigation are underway.

Regarding the small outbreak in the prison, which was reported last week, involving three inmates from the same unit, two have tested negative already and the third is due for follow up testing. One officer associated with the escort activity for the index case has also tested positive after developing mild symptoms. Contact tracing and investigation are underway.

Testing supplies

Testing supply levels were noted. Using the previous estimated burn rate of roughly 1900 rapid tests and 200 RT-PCR tests per week, based on the current testing protocols, there are stocks as follows:

- Rapid test stocks for approximately five weeks.
- RT-PCR test stocks for approximately five months based on the expiry dates.

Approximately 50% of the rapid tests conducted since April 1 were for arrival tests. However, the agreed protocol change would potentially reduce the demand for rapid tests, and thus stocks could potentially last several weeks longer. However, the current increase in cases, as well as anticipated fluctuations in arrivals needs to be considered. In the week of April 23 - 30, at least 578 rapid tests were conducted for surveillance purposes (public sector).

On the other hand, demand for PCR testing is not expected to be greatly affected by the protocol agreed on April 29.

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of April 29, 2022, a total of 10,676 first doses and 9,955 second doses have been administered. In an estimated population of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 69% of the total population having received the first dose and 64% of the total population having received two doses. In addition, 79% of the total eligible population (13,560) have received one dose and 73% have received two doses. The breakdown by age of persons having received a first dose, is as follows:

- 294 persons age 5 - 11
- 533 persons age 12 - 17
- 2965 persons age 18 - 34
- 2900 persons age 35 - 49
- 2576 persons age 50 - 64
- 1405 persons age 65+

The occupational breakdown of first doses, is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 548 Civil and Border Protection

- 1838 Hospitality
- 1094 Retired
- 7091 Other

Distribution (Pfizer)

As of April 29, 4,504 total doses of Pfizer have been administered including 1,102 first doses, 697 second doses and 2,705 booster doses. This includes 533 first doses for 12 - 17 year olds; approximately 43% of the estimated 12 – 17 year old population and 294 (24%) second doses. This includes 294 (20%) first doses and 214 (15%) second doses for children aged 5 - 11 years old.

Vaccination Stocks

Presently, a shipment of 400 pediatric Pfizer doses and 1,170 adult Pfizer doses are tentatively anticipated to arrive on May 11, 2022. The former will be used to complete outstanding second doses and offer first and second doses to any interested persons.

Further, Pfizer has extended the shelf life of its COVID-19 vaccine to up to 1 year from the date of manufacture once kept in ULT storage. Thus, the existing adult stock due to expire at the end of June now has an expiry date at the end of September 2022.

COVID-19-Exit Strategy

The Ministry has made recommendations for Council's consideration, concerning the discontinuation of day passes for persons taking day trips.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that persons eligible for second boosters will be contacted directly and outreach campaigns via diverse media, including social media and radio will continue. The campaign

in schools will continue, noting that other vaccinations are also being administered within schools;

- 3) noted the Ministry's recommendation that Council reconsider its determination to remove all arrival testing at the ports. The Ministry recommends that all unvaccinated persons be tested at the ports if their pre-arrival test is more than 2 days old. Council agreed that this recommendation would not be taken forward at this time;
- 4) agreed that based on an estimate of 1,000 rapid tests per week/4,000 tests per month being used, the health team shall procure 24,000 rapid tests, which is estimated to be a six-month supply. Further agreed that based on an estimate of 200 RT-PCR tests per week/800 tests per month being used, the health team shall procure 4800 RT-PCR tests. Noting that based on the agreed arrival protocols, these numbers are in order. Noting that tests are usually obtained from PAHO or the FCDO. In order to obtain sufficient tests to meet future testing requirements, active forward planning is needed, taking into consideration possible supply chain issues and delayed delivery. Consequently, a longer lead time may need to be taken into consideration. Consideration should also be given to making budgetary provision for purchasing these tests in future;
- 5) noted that in relation to day trips the health team shall reinforce with stakeholders the existing requirements as it relates to vaccination and hygienic measures, which have previously been published. Noted that after day trips, the compliance with Day 4 testing is very low and the names of persons in breach of this requirement are shared with the RAPF for further action. Upon completion of Day 4 testing there are some positive results recorded;
- 6) agreed that day trip passes are to be discontinued. The Ministry of Health shall confirm the date for commencement and ensure that any changes to agreed protocols are communicated to the French authorities. However, due to the current travel levels between Anguilla and Sint Maarten/St Martin the following protocols should remain in place until further notice:
 - a. Persons leaving Anguilla for up to one night must submit a departure tax receipt as proof of departure date to the health team at the port of re-entry into

Anguilla (for surveillance/tracking purposes). The boat operators manifest may also be utilised.

- b. Persons may be required to submit to a COVID-19 test on Day 4 after arrival into Anguilla.
 - c. Persons leaving Anguilla for more than one night will follow the existing entry protocols (that is to present evidence of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19 along with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter Anguilla).
 - d. Persons entering Anguilla from Sint Maarten/St Martin for one day will follow the current entry protocols.
 - e. Visitors must present evidence of being fully vaccinated for COVID-19 along with a negative COVID-19 test result to enter Anguilla.
- 7) agreed that all visitors entering Anguilla without pre-arrival tests, who cannot be returned to their country of origin, must submit to PCR testing upon arrival and continue to pay US\$200 for the tests, in addition to any fines that may be imposed;
- 8) noted that the Ministry of Health are to agree appropriate protocols with the Department of Customs for the collection of revenue at the ports; and
- 9) instructed the Attorney General's Chambers to prepare the required amendments to the regulations, based on the approved changes to the Exit Strategy.

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 22/143

EX MEMO 2022/98 ACTUARIAL REVIEW OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY FUND (FUND)

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

The Hon Premier briefed Council. The salient points from the paper are as follows:

- Section 16 of the Social Security Act 1980 stipulates that an actuary should conduct a review at least every three years to make a report to the Minister on the financial condition of the Fund and the adequacy or otherwise of contributions to support benefits, having regard to its liabilities under the Act. The purpose of the actuarial review is to ensure the Fund operates properly and in a sustainable manner. The Minister may at any time direct that a review should be conducted at an earlier date. It is a statutory requirement for the reports to be laid before the House of Assembly as soon as possible.
- The 11th actuarial review of the Social Security Fund was conducted as at December 31, 2019. The report shows an unfunded liability of \$645,101,214 at 31 December 2019, as compared to \$529,486,722 at year-end 2016. The 2019 review made no recommendations for changes to benefits or contributions, but advised that a further review should be conducted to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the Fund.
- The 12th actuarial review of the Social Security Fund was prepared as of December 31, 2020, one year after the previous actuarial review. The financial statements for 2019 and 2020 are unaudited.
- Over 60% of the Fund's investments are from the Note Payable by the Government of Anguilla who is facilitating the replenishment of funds lost during the domestic financial crisis, which is being paid through to 2041. While other investments are well diversified, the overall rates of return have been low. Administrative costs are very high.
- Reserves are projected to be depleted in 2037 under the *Best Estimate* scenario, if the contribution rate is not increased and benefit reforms are not made. When reserves are exhausted,

there will only be two possible sources of additional income to meet benefit payments, higher contributions, and special transfers from Government.

- With the current state of Fund finances, higher investment returns will have little material impact on overall reserves. Projections were also made under two different sets of assumptions – one optimistic and one pessimistic. Without remedial action the following are the key results, expressed in ranges:
 - The Fund will be depleted between 2035 and 2038.
 - The pay-as-you-go rate in 2037, at around the time that the Fund is projected to be depleted, will be between 21% and 25%.
 - The average long-term cost of benefits over the next 60 years, often referred to as the general average premium, is between 22% and 28%.

Other Findings

- Fund expenditure exceeded contribution income for the first time in 2019, 37 years after inception.
- While the gap between contributions and expenditure was even greater in 2020, the Fund experienced a net surplus, as a portion of investment income was used to help meet expenditure needs.
- The number of SSB contributors exceeded 8,000 in 2018 and 2019.
- The average yield on reserves over the last three years was 3.4%.
- Administrative costs accounted for 27% of contribution income over the three years.

- Total SSF reserves available for future benefits at the end of 2020 were \$360 million.

These results show that the Fund is not financially sustainable over the medium and long-term with the current benefit provisions and contribution rate. The report recommends measures to improve the sustainability of the Fund, with specific recommendations as to contributions and reforms to pension age.

The next actuarial review of the Social Security Fund is due as at December 31, 2023

Council:

- 1) noted that the sustainability of the Fund has implications for the Consolidated Fund. Section 14(1) of the Social Security Act provides that: *“any temporary insufficiency in the assets of the Fund to meet the liabilities of the Fund shall be advanced out of the Consolidated Fund.”*;
- 2) noted that failure to take action to address the issues identified will result in the Fund depleting at an earlier date;
- 3) noted the 11th actuarial review as at December 31, 2019 and the 12th actuarial review as at December 31, 2020 and the recommendations made for the Social Security Fund;
- 4) agreed that the 11th and 12th actuarial reviews as at December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020, respectively, shall be tabled at the House of Assembly; and
- 5) instructed the Ministry of Finance to request that the Anguilla Social Security Board (ASSB) prepare an action plan to address the recommendations made for submission to Executive Council for consideration. The ASSB should engage in public awareness as it relates to the contents of the 12th actuarial review.

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

EX MIN 22/144

**EX MEMO 2022/99 2022 STATUTORY BODY BUDGETS – ANGUILLA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE REVISED (FURTHER REDUCTIONS)**

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

The Hon Minister for Social Development briefed Council. Council considered this matter in Ex Min 22/46 and Ex Min 22/108. The budgets of the statutory bodies will be submitted to Council for approval with onward submission for tabling at the House of Assembly.

Council:

- 1) noted that in accordance with Ex Min 22/108 which required a balanced budget to be presented, the ACC has reviewed the budget, made adjustments and the deficit has been eliminated;
- 2) noted that as the costs associated with promoting enrollment had been reduced in the budget, funds must be raised in order to facilitate this activity. The overall strategy of the ACC must be reviewed and it should also take into consideration all further education institutions, as competition across course offerings may potentially impede the progress of the institutions. Coordination of the curriculums for each institution could aid in reducing any overlap;
- 3) noted the high employment costs particularly as it relates to administration and that the board is required to observe its fiduciary responsibilities;
- 4) noted that the ACC's anticipated revenue for 2022 is EC\$4.47 million, the strategic plan currently being drafted is intended to address improving course uptake;
- 5) noted that the ACC's expenditure budget for 2022 is EC\$3.44 million, in this revised budget, the ACC has reduced expenditure for faculty and staff costs, utilities, supplies, advertising, academic expenses, office expenses and other operating expenses;

- 6) noted that as the interest rate is variable, the ACC has projected that for the 2022 fiscal year, debt service is estimated as EC\$1,026,680.69, with an interest rate of 3.80%;
- 7) noted that the ACC subvention remains the primary source of revenue for the ACC; and
- 8) approved the 2022 Budget of the Anguilla Community College for tabling at the next session of the House of Assembly.

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

EX MIN 22/145

EX MEMO 2022/100 ANGUILLA'S NATIONAL ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COMMITTEE (ANAMLC)

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

The Hon Attorney General briefed Council. Anguilla's Financial Action Task Force ("AFATF") was formed in 2011 to deal with issues arising from the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force ("CFATF") and to ensure that Anguilla was compliant. AFATF met regularly but stopped meeting in or around 2015. However, members of the Attorney General's Chambers, the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Anguilla Financial Services Commission met periodically to discuss Anguilla's AML/CFT related issues.

In January 2020, the Hon Deputy Governor and the Head of the Governor's Office "re-instituted" the AFATF but widened its mandate, so that it covered issues relative to the CFATF and also to the OECD Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, the Exchange of Notes between the UK and Government on sharing Beneficial Ownership and the EU Code of Conduct Group. As such, a change in the name to become Anguilla's National Anti-Money Laundering Committee is necessary.

Anguilla's National Anti-Money Laundering Committee ("Committee") shall be responsible for coordinating and developing an efficient and robust Anti-Money Laundering, Countering Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing regime, which will protect the national and global interests while ensuring compliance and effectiveness to international standards relevant to AML/CFT and combatting the proliferation of weapons.

Council:

- 1) noted that Anguilla's National Money-Laundering Committee should report to the National Security Council and that any proposed policy changes arising from recommendations made by the Committee must be approved by Executive Council; and
- 2) approved the formation of and Terms of Reference for Anguilla's National Money-Laundering Committee.

Action: HON, AG; SCC (Cr)

EX MIN 22/146

EX MEMO 2022/101 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION WEST END, BLOCK 17810 B, PARCEL 201 STRATA LOT SL B 102 BEING 991 SQ. FT.

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

Council noted Executive Minute 20/34 wherein this matter was previously considered.

Council agreed to issue an Aliens Land Holding Licence to hold on a freehold basis Registration Section West End, Block 17810 B, described as Parcel 201 Strata Lot SL B 102 being 991 sq. ft., located at Barnes Bay forming part of the Resorts & Residences of Anguilla Home Owners Association Ltd., a Condominium development at Four Seasons Anguilla Ltd subject to the following:

(i)	under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act	NIL
(ii)	under the Stamp Act	EC\$ 20.00
(iii)	Payment of Registration Fees under the Registered Land Act	<u>EC\$100.00</u>
	TOTAL	<u>EC\$120.00</u>

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

EX MIN 22/147

EX MEMO 2022/102 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION WEST CENTRAL, BLOCK 28309 B, PARCEL 79 BEING 0.50 OF AN ACRE WITH A VILLA THEREON

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 West Central, Block 28309 B, described as Parcel 79 being 0.50 of an acre of land located at Cul-de-Sac, Anguilla for tourism purposes with a villa thereon, subject to the following:

a) Stamp Duties payable are as follows:

- (i) under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$1,930,665.24 EC\$96,533.26
- (ii) under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$1,930,665.24 EC\$96,533.26

TOTAL EC\$193,066.52

- b) the property must be used for tourism purposes;
- c) with the express condition that the applicant company must obtain a Business Licence from the Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce, Information Technology & Natural Resources in order to rent the said property; and
- d) the Licensee shall fully comply with the laws of Anguilla.

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