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**MINUTES OF THE 99<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2022 AT 9.00 AM**

- PRESENT:            Acting Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
- The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, Economic  
                         Development & Investment and Health, Dr Ellis Webster
- Acting Deputy Governor, Mr Karim Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration, Labour,  
                         Human Rights, Constitutional Affairs, Information and Broadcasting,  
                         Lands and Physical Planning, and Acting Minister for Social  
                         Development, Mr Kenneth Hodge
- The Honourable Minister for Infrastructure, Communications,  
                         Utilities, Housing and Tourism, Mr Haydn Hughes
- The Honourable Minister for Sustainability, Innovation and  
                         Environment, Mrs Quincia Gumbs-Marie
- The Honourable Attorney General, Mr Dwight Horsford
- Clerk to Executive Council, Mrs Angela Hughes
- ABSENT:            Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
- The Honourable Minister for Social Development, Cultural Affairs,  
                         Youth Affairs, Gender Affairs, Education and Library Services,  
                         Ms Dee-Ann Kentish-Rogers
- Honourable Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Merrick Richardson
- Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull

EX MIN 22/263

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Executive Council held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2022, and the Minutes of the decisions taken by Round Robin on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2022.

Council noted the apologies of H.E. the Governor who is on leave.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

EX MIN 22/264

**EX MEMO 22/192 RE-APPOINTMENT OF FIVE MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ANGUILLA TOURIST BOARD (ATB)**

Council:

- 1) noted the following documents:
  - a) the official appointment instruments for members of the Anguilla Tourist Board;
  - b) updated CV's for Mr Angarita, Mr Herbert, Ms Mussington & Ms Proctor; and
  - c) correspondence from the Director of Tourism to the PS, MICUHT, outlining the status of the directors as it relates to completion of the Governance course, dated August 9;
- 2) noted that as a matter of due diligence, tax clearance certificates should be obtained for recommended board members, in order to check good standing. All of the persons proposed for reappointment as directors have passed their board Governance training, although two other directors on the board need to complete same. The Minister gave his assurances that arrangements will be made for these two directors to complete the training and examination at the Anguilla Community College; and
- 3) approved the appointment of the following persons to be members of the Anguilla Tourist Board, for a period of 2 years,

in accordance with Section 5 of the Anguilla Tourist Board Act, namely:

- 1) Mr Kenroy Herbert – Member & Chairperson (commencing July 29, 2022 – ending on July 28, 2024)
- 2) Ms Danitza Lariana Delisa Mussington (commencing July 24, 2022 – ending on July 23, 2024)
- 3) Mrs Melisha M Maccow-Niles (commencing July 24, 2022 – ending on July 23, 2024)
- 4) Mrs Condon Maureen Proctor (commencing July 24, 2022 – ending on July 23, 2024)
- 5) Ms Luisanna Mendez Retde (commencing July 29, 2022 – ending on July 28, 2024)

Action: PS, MICUHT; HON, MIN MICUHT

EX MIN 22/265

**EX MEMO 22/193 BLUE BELT PROGRAMME (BBP)**

The overall objective of the Blue Belt Programme is to enhance the protection and sustainable management of the marine environments across the UK Overseas Territories (OTs). The Blue Belt Programme can assist UK OTs under five core themes:

- Strengthening governance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and marine environments - Support OTs which have a network of MPAs to develop and implement effective management, research and monitoring and enforcement strategies.
- Understanding and protecting biodiversity - Improve scientific understanding of MPAs to inform MPA assessments, to support adaptive management, and to measure their efficacy in meeting conservation objectives.
- Supporting compliance and enforcement - Provide maritime domain awareness support, including investment in the development of innovative and effective technologies, to prevent, deter and eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and unsustainable marine activities; and improve the efficiency and accuracy of enforcement strategies.
- Supporting sustainable fisheries management - Support the development and implementation of

management frameworks that ensure ocean resources are used and harvested sustainably to protect the marine environment and ensure resources are available for future generations.

- Managing human impacts - Support the development and implementation of effective marine spatial planning frameworks to enable economic activity and growth, while ensuring the effective conservation of marine biodiversity.

In addition, new assistance is available from 2022-25, subject to Ministerial agreement and budget confirmation, for the following:

- Support the development of integrated marine and coastal climate change adaptation plans and frameworks.
- Use best available scientific data and evidence to demonstrate the environmental, social and economic benefits of marine conservation and how the Blue Belt contributes to the global ambition for marine protection.
- Develop and support education and outreach, connecting people to the natural environment and the benefits it provides, to ensure responsible use and long-term commitment to protective measures.
- Support the development and implementation of strategic policy and financial incentive mechanisms to encourage the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of marine resources that benefit OT communities and economies, such as blue carbon ecosystems.
- Support OTs to develop and implement measures to reduce the risk of, and mitigate for, marine pollution incidents, including the prevention, reduction and removal of plastic, litter and other pollutants.

While the Blue Belt programme is mainly focused on conservation, many of its thematic areas are aligned with Government's priorities as outlined in the Blue Anguilla (BANG) Implementation Plan. As such, the programme provides an opportunity for Government to receive funding and technical expertise to advance the blue economy agenda.

Council:

- 1) noted that over 90% of the UK's biodiversity is located within the OTs. There has been trepidation on the part of UK OTs in the Caribbean, as it relates to joining the programme, as it seeks to advance the UK's goal of protecting 30% of the ocean by 2030 and thus is viewed as seeking to have OTs commit 30% of their ocean space for conservation. This is of concern to Caribbean OTs in particular, because of the long standing fishing industry on which many people rely for their livelihoods and because as large ocean territories, our economies also depend on the prudent use of blue resources for the transportation of goods and people, tourism and recreational activities;
- 2) noted that in order to join the Blue Belt Programme a level of commitment from Government seems to be required. There is some overlap with the BANG initiative. In order to make a fully informed assessment, Government requires more information and an assessment of the level (percentage) and nature of any commitment. Further dialogue is required on the 30% by 2030 requirement and how the percentage contribution for the jurisdiction is established. Government is cognisant of the potential impact on the fishing sector, noting that some activities may be facilitated and some may be banned, but any commitment that is made has to compliment the current activities undertaken. Noting that the aim of the BBP is not to prohibit ocean use, but to encourage sustainable use and preservation. Particular concerns include the perceived need for a commitment to protect a fixed percentage of the waters, which may also be compared with the greater percentage commitments made by other jurisdictions, when Anguilla's waters are used more and relied upon more heavily for economic sustainability. Other concerns are the ability to opt out of the BBP at a later stage, if so desired, especially if funding has already been received and also the potential restrictions on fishing, as it relates to what type of fish may be caught and when;
- 3) noted that public consultation should be undertaken to better understand the views of the people of Anguilla on the subject;

- 4) noted the Ministry's indication of its desire for Anguilla to join the Blue Belt Programme. Noted that joining the BBP may support Anguilla in working towards realising any objectives, pertaining to developing sustainable, international and commercial fishing. Noted that the BANG initiative is estimated to cost EC\$15 million, and a better understanding of the costs and benefits of the BBP is needed; and
- 5) approved Anguilla's draft Blue Belt commitment as stated in Option 1, on the basis that this is a statement of intent/interest only and further details are to be provided, concerning, the benefits of joining the programme, the timelines prescribed, the operational elements of the programme and the information outlined at point 2 above. Noting that no in depth policy analysis of marine and economic life is necessary at this stage. The Ministry shall in due course present to Council for consideration the information as outlined herein. The key issues of beach erosion and marine management also need to be considered.

Action: PS, MSIE; HON MIN MSIE

EX MIN 22/269

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Confirmed cases, hospitalisations and deaths, as at August 7, 2022, 6 pm for the period August 3 - 7:

- New cases 28
- Recovered cases 4
- Deaths 0
- Admissions 3 (including a pregnant female and a child)
- Total confirmed cases to date 3648
- Total confirmed recoveries 3599
- Total known deaths 10
- Current active cases 39

***Revised measures***

Effective July 15, there is no quarantine requirement for unvaccinated returning residents.

With regard to day trips, effective July 15, unvaccinated persons are permitted to travel for no more than one night to the neighbouring islands. All persons (vaccinated and unvaccinated) who go on day trip travel must comply with the entry requirements for the destination to which they are travelling. There will be no testing upon re-entry into Anguilla. However, unvaccinated day-trippers are required to submit to a COVID-19 test at the Ministry of Health four (4) days after their return to the island. This remains in effect until September 15. Vaccinated persons may be required to do a Day 4 test upon return for sampling and surveillance purposes as required by the Ministry of Health. Vaccinated individuals who are selected for Day 4 testing will be notified at the ports and given instructions as to when to report for testing. For persons travelling to neighbouring islands for more than one night, the following protocol applies.

Effective August 8, there shall be no pre-arrival testing requirement for vaccinated persons. Unvaccinated returning residents shall be required to complete a pre-arrival test for entry into Anguilla.

Effective August 8, unvaccinated visitors will be permitted to enter Anguilla with a negative pre-arrival test. There shall be no quarantine or further testing.

The Ministry of Health reminds the public that frequent handwashing and the practice of good hygiene remain the best ways to protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The relaxation of protocols does not mean that the COVID-19 threat is over. Vaccination remains the most effective form of protection against severe disease and death. Vaccination and booster doses are still available and increasingly are a requirement for travel. The Ministry urges the public to take proactive steps to protect their health and that of family members by being vaccinated.

### **Monkey Pox (MPX) Update**

The WHO declared monkey pox a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on July 23. This rare designation means the WHO now views the outbreak as a significant enough threat to global health that a coordinated international response is needed to prevent the virus from spreading further.

Based on the festivities associated with Carnival, the Ministry of Health has admonished care based on both the ongoing COVID-19 threat and monkey pox threat. The Ministry and HAA are also working with PAHO and UKHSA to assess the possibility of establishing national capacity to detect MPX. In the meantime, samples will be sent to CARPHA if suspected cases are encountered.

Council:

- 1) noted the brief on the multi-country monkey pox outbreak in non-endemic countries. Noted that the Ministry of Health will continue to monitor and advise on the developments and engage in technical discussion and updates with regional and international partners. Noted the prevalence of monkey pox in the region. The health team has been tasked with developing guidelines detailing preventative measures designed to protect persons working on the front-line, in the hospitality sector, who may be at greater risk of exposure; and
- 2) noted that the health team has been asked to review the position as it relates to the requirement for work permit holders to be vaccinated.

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

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