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MINUTES OF THE 51ST MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 8th 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 21/219

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

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

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 50th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 1st July, 2021 and the Minutes of the Round Robin decision agreed on Thursday 1st July, 2021. Council confirmed that the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Executive Council held on Tuesday 6th July, 2021 would be agreed by Round Robin.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 21/220

COVID-19 & ASTRAZENECA/OXFORD VACCINE UPDATE

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development and the 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
Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers

Epidemiology***Global overview***

According to the WHO Situation Report of July 6, global COVID-19 cases and deaths have slightly increased over the past week to 2.6 million new cases with a 7% decline in new deaths to 54,000 in 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 Europe (30% increase) and the highest recorded increase in mortality is in the African region (23%) compared to last week.

Emerging variants of concern (VOC) continue to be monitored.

In particular, the Delta VOC continues to be recorded in new countries. Moreover, several countries continue to observe an increase in cases associated with the Delta variant: in the UK this is

now the most dominant variant and responsible for up to 99% of new cases in England; displacing the Alpha variant. UK Authorities indicated that cases are largely in the unvaccinated population including younger age groups. Further, the UK is currently experiencing a significant upward trend in the number of new cases and a slight increase in new hospitalizations; though deaths have remained stable. In the USA, the CDC now estimates that the Delta variant has become the predominant COVID strain responsible for up to 51% of new cases. The increase is largely associated with states/regions of the USA that have lower vaccination uptake rates.

With regards to vaccine performance, studies from the UK suggest that there is moderately reduced vaccine effectiveness in preventing symptomatic disease and infection due to the Delta variant as compared to the Alpha. The evidence presented by the WHO considered (UK) studies that provide further evidence of the importance of two doses of both Pfizer BioNTech-Comirnaty and AstraZeneca-Vaxzevria in preventing hospitalization, symptomatic disease and infection due to both the Delta and Alpha variants.

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 1, Anguilla recorded two new active cases of COVID-19, in two fully vaccinated male visitors from the USA and Brazil respectively.

As of July 7, Anguilla has recorded a total of 111 confirmed cases with 110 recoveries and 1 active case. There are 49 persons currently in quarantine.

Furthermore, the Ministry has received notification that PAHO/WHO have re-classified Anguilla's current transmission status from '*no cases*' to '*imported/sporadic*' in the epidemiological daily update.

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of July 7, there were 9728 registered persons of which 9328 persons had received their first dose, representing 74% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 7828 persons (62% of target) have received their second dose. In a population estimate of 15,500 total persons this would represent 60% of the population having received the first dose and 51% having received two doses. The breakdown by occupation of first doses is as follows:

- 353 Healthcare workers
- 521 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1782 Hospitality
- 1067 Retired
- 5607 Others

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

- 2845 persons age 18 - 34
- 2793 persons age 35 - 49
- 2406 persons age 50 - 64
- 1266 persons age 65+

Vaccine Stock

As of July 5, there were 4792 doses remaining with an expiry date of July 31. First doses continue to be issued.

The Ministry of Health would like to explore with HMG the possibility of receiving the Pfizer vaccination to cover children ages 12 – 17 years, as well as adults who would prefer to take this vaccine. It is estimated that approximately 2,000 to 2,100 additional vaccinations could be achieved by utilizing this product in this way. If the logistics, cold chain and training requirements are assessed, and found to be viable for the successful administration of the Pfizer vaccine, the Ministry recommends that this be vigorously pursued with HMG.

COVID-19 Exit Strategy

On July 1, Phase 1 of the Exit Strategy was implemented. As of July 7, there have been 1702 arrivals via air and seaports.

HAA Laboratory

The HAA has received a quote for the parts and work to repair the biosafety cabinet of the open platform COVID-19 machine. The technician has been advised to ship the parts to Anguilla via the fastest method possible (FedEx) from the manufacturer and will align travel plans to Anguilla accordingly. An update will be provided as soon as more information is available.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for the continued hard work and the efforts made to protect Anguilla;
- 2) noted the current limitations on testing capacity due to the failure of one of the level 2 biosafety cabinets. Presently, both the open and closed platforms are being used and this limits the number of tests than can be processed. However, the waiting time for test results should not exceed 24 hours;
- 3) noted that the last case identified on April 20, (prior to the cluster of cases) has been confirmed as the Delta variant. The cluster of cases has been confirmed as the Alpha variant;
- 4) noted that with different variants of COVID-19 even if the efficacy of the vaccine is reduced some protection is still provided;
- 5) noted that efforts have been made to contact persons who have registered for the vaccine but have not attended to receive a first dose. Some of the people are not on island or cannot be located and some are pregnant or have underlying medical conditions;

- 6) noted that all endeavours have been made to reach out to persons to encourage vaccination and whilst further efforts can be made, the point of saturation may have been reached. Personal direct outreach and further outreach to key groups such as police and teachers can be considered. Further consideration can be given to approaching persons who contracted COVID-19 during the cluster to see if they are amenable to sharing their experiences;
- 7) noted that consideration needs to be given to amending the definition of festivals within the Regulations. It may be necessary to require that all participants are fully vaccinated for mass gatherings of a certain number;
- 8) further noted that persons who test positive for COVID-19 can only travel privately by air if the receiving country agrees in writing that they are willing to accept the passenger(s). This is not possible on commercial airlines; and
- 9) approved the Protocol for the Movement of vessel operators in relation to the outbreak of COVID-19, July 2021. Noted that the cut off time for submitting applications (for foreign aircraft and vessel operators) for entry into Anguilla has to be highlighted in the protocol, so that it is taken into consideration, as it will be necessary to apply in advance. For local vessel operators a fee should be charged for the COVID-19 testing programme (which includes testing every 7 days) and the amount to be charged should be determined and included in the protocol.

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 21/223

**EX MEM 21/122 PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (PUC) –
APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER 2020**

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

The Hon Minister for MICUHT briefed Council. The Public Utilities Commission is responsible for the administration of the Telecommunications Act and the Public Utilities Commission Act (PUC Act).

The PUC wishes to appoint BDO LLC International Limited to undertake the audit of the PUC's accounts for the year ending December 31, 2020. Under section 18(4) of the PUC Act, *“the accounts shall be audited by such person as may be appointed in respect of each financial year by the Governor in Council.”*

BDO LLC will audit the financial statements of the PUC, which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2020, and the related statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows and note to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

The objectives of the BDO LLC audit are to obtain assurance as to whether the financial statements are as a whole, free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes their opinion.

Council:

- 1) noted the letter of the Executive Director of the Public Utilities Commission, Mr Kenn Banks to H.E. the Governor, dated June 23, 2021;
- 2) noted BDO LLC's correspondence to the PUC regarding details of the audit, dated June 16, 2021;
- 3) noted that to ensure value for money for the future, a competitive procurement process should be considered; and
- 4) in principle approved the appointment of the firm BDO LLC to conduct the audit of the Public Utilities Commission's

accounts for the year ended December 31, 2020, subject to receiving further details of the fees to be charged. In order to justify the fee charged it should be a reflection of the complexity of the work to be reviewed.

Action: PS, MICUHT; HON, DG; HON, MIN MICUHT

EX MIN 21/224

EX MEM 21/123 RECONSTITUTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TRANSPORT BOARD PURSUANT TO THE VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT R.S.A. C. V10

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

The Hon Minister for MICUHT briefed Council. Section 2 of the Vehicles and Road Traffic Act R.S.A. c. V10 states that *“There is established a body to be called the Anguilla Transport Board consisting of the Traffic Commissioner, the Permanent Secretary of Public Works and 3 other persons to be appointed by the Governor.”*

In Ex Min 19/447 Council supported the reconstitution of the Transport Board, but the process was not completed. The Transport Board has not functioned effectively over the last year and a half due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Council:

- 1) approved the reconstitution of the members of the Transport Board as stipulated by the Vehicles and Road Traffic Act;
- 2) approved the removal of Mr Cledwyn Rogers, Member of the Anguilla Taxi Association from the Transport Board;
- 3) further approved the following persons as members of the reconstituted Transport Board:
 - a) Mr Jameel Rochester, Anguilla Tourist Board for a **three year period**, effective July 15, 2021;

- b) Mr. Wilmoth Hodge, President of the Anguilla Taxi Association for a **two year period**, effective July 15, 2021;
- c) Mr. James Lake, Independent Taxi Driver for a **two year period**, effective July 15, 2021;
- d) Permanent Secretary – MICUH&T or a designate as stipulated by law; and
- e) Commissioner of Police or a designate as stipulated by law.

Action: PS, MICUHT; HON, MIN MICUHT
