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**MINUTES OF THE 82<sup>ND</sup> MEETING OF THE ELEVENTH ANGUILLA**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017**

- PRESENT:
- Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Christina Scott
  - The Honourable Victor Banks, Chief Minister and Minister of Finance,  
Economic Development, Commerce, Tourism, Lands & Physical Planning
  - The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
  - The Honourable Evans Rogers, Minister of Health and Social Development
  - The Honourable Cora Richardson-Hodge, Minister of Home Affairs, Immigration,  
Labour, Environment, Human Rights, Gender Affairs, Constitutional Affairs and  
Information and Broadcasting
  - The Honourable Curtis Richardson, Minister of Infrastructure, Communications,  
Utilities, Housing, Agriculture and Fisheries and Information Technology
  - The Honourable Attorney General, Mr John McKendrick QC
  - Mrs Nicola Webster, Acting Clerk to Executive Council
- IN ATTENDANCE:
- Hon Cardigan Connor, Parliamentary Secretary
  - Mr Timothy Antoine, Governor, ECCB
  - Mr Shawn Williams, Advisor, Bank Supervision Department, ECCB
  - Mr Leon Bullen, Economist, Research Department, ECCB
  - Ms Shermalon Kirby-Gordon, Dep Director Corporate Relations Department, ECCB
  - Mr Brian Deadman, Financial Adviser to the GoA
  - Dr Aidan Harrigan, PS, FIN
  - Mrs Shantelle Richardson, Director of Economic Planning
  - Ms Jamila Gumbs, Budget Officer
  - Mr Larry Franklin, PS, EDICTLP
  - Mrs Patricia MacDonna, Accountant General
  - Mr Vonlee Harris, Deputy Accountant General
  - Mr Kiel Connor, CIR
  - Mr Foster Rogers, PS, HSD
  - Mr Leslie Hodge, DLS

EX MIN 17/11

**CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES**

Hon Cardigan Connor, Parliamentary Secretary joined the Meeting.

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 81<sup>st</sup> Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

EX MIN 17/12

None

EX MIN 17/13

**COURTESY CALL BY GOVERNOR ANTOINE AND HIS TEAM FROM ECCB**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary remained in attendance. Mr Timothy Antoine, Governor, ECCB, Mr Shawn Williams, Advisor, Bank Supervision Department, ECCB, Mr Leon Bullen, Economist, Research Department, ECCB Ms Shermalon Kirby-Gordon, Dep Director Corporate Relations Department, ECCB and Mr Brian Deadman, Financial Adviser to the GoA joined the Meeting.

As part of the ECCB's 'country outreach' initiative, Council was guided through an informative presentation on '*the Vision for a New Era 2016 -2020 and Beyond*' by Governor Antoine and his team.

Council thanked the ECCB for a comprehensive presentation.

Action: EXCO MEMBERS; PS, FIN

EX MIN 17/14

**BUDGET 2017 UPDATE**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary and Mr Brian Deadman, Financial Adviser to the GoA remained in attendance. Dr Aidan Harrigan, PS, FIN, Mrs Shantelle Richardson, DIR, EP, Ms Jamila Gumbs, BO, Mr Larry Franklin, PS, EDICTLP, Mrs Patricia MacDonna, ACC GEN, Mr Vonlee Harris, DEP ACC GEN, Mr Kiel Connor, CIR and Mr Foster Rogers, PS, HSD joined the Meeting.

Dr Aidan Harrigan and his team briefed Council on the 2016 Budget Outturn.

Council:-

- (i) noted the final Government of Anguilla 2016 Recurrent Revenue, Expenditure and Capital Budget outturn figures;
- (ii) agreed the Government of Anguilla Contingency Plan for 2017 which would be used to support the continuous monitoring of the fiscal situation of the Government of Anguilla. It will also provide a menu of options to consider for implementation in the event that the 2017 Budget does not stay on track;
- (iii) approved the Contingency Options outlined below; and

## **Expenditure Measures**

### **Controlling Personal Emoluments**

- It is agreed that throughout 2017 vacancies will only be filled after a rigorous process involving consultations among Permanent Secretaries, followed by a joint assessment by the Ministry of Finance and Public Administration of the recommendation of Permanent Secretaries, following which the Deputy Governor will submit a Paper to Executive Council recommending filling of a post or not.
- Ministries and Departments will maintain the same level of personnel (or less) during the First Quarter of 2017 relative to the First Quarter of 2016 with the exception being where it can be demonstrated that new hires will be revenue generating on a net basis (e.g. increased staffing for Inland Revenue and Customs Departments).
- No new programmes will be undertaken by Ministries/Departments during the First Quarter of 2017 with the exception being where it can be demonstrated that the programme will be revenue generating on a net basis (e.g. Inland Revenue Department initiatives).
- No acting allowance will be paid in 2017 for acting except in the case of statutory appointments and other special cases.
- Revisit the 2011 Civil Service Efficiency Review with a view to implementing recommendations where possible.

### **Controlling Goods & Services**

- Restrict overseas travel to trips funded by donor agencies and exceptional cases – Ministries and Departments are encouraged to utilize Skype Business, Google, etc and conference calling for Meetings wherever possible rather than travelling.
- Implementation of energy savings audit and recommendations across Government Departments and Ministries – commence using energy saving bulbs across Government, incorporate energy savings for street lighting, etc.
- Streamlining Procurement mechanisms and procedures with a view to reducing costs of goods and services – e.g. reduce time in procurement decisions, commence bulk purchasing of paper and other supplies where possible.
- Implementation of VOIP and other telecommunication systems that will result in savings.

### **Controlling Capital Expenditure**

- Restricting Capital Expenditure to projects where funding has been received – no activity to proceed without the expressed permission of the Permanent Secretary Finance.

## **Revenue Measures**

### **Arrears**

- Continue with staffing of the Collections and Compliance Unit in Inland Revenue Department with the goal to aggressively pursue the collections of outstanding revenue arrears to reduce by 20% of the 2016 year end arrears total.

### **Supply Side Measures**

- Consideration be given to the reduction of the customs surcharge from 6% to 3% on construction related items with a view to helping to stimulate the construction sector and overall aggregate demand.
- The construction industry is an important player of the Anguillan economy. In 2008 the industry contributed to above 20% of national GVA (some EC\$150 m) in real terms. Following the global financial and economic crisis, the activity in the construction industry decreased drastically with the sector's contribution to GVA in 2016 being around EC\$60m (around 10% of GVA). Construction is an important sector to the economy, not only in terms of its direct contribution to employment, but furthermore, through facilitating future economic activity by expanding and maintaining the physical infrastructure. Having been hard hit at the onset of the financial crisis, coupled with the reduction in large inward Foreign Direct Investment as well as the austerity measures put in place by the Government, the construction industry on Anguilla has had a challenging period. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government of Anguilla intervenes to reenergize this sector.
- The construction industry is strongly associated with the process of economic development. By its very nature, construction has strong backward and forward linkages with other sectors of the economy. Since construction is closely associated with the provision of technical, professional, crafts and transport services, it was noted that the value added or 'net' output of construction is only part of the total construction process, given that a construction output consists of intermediate inputs from other sectors of the economy. Its across-the-board interactions with other sectors of the economy make it a key industry for fostering economic development. The sector has strong backward and forward linkages and the multiplier effect from these linkages is quite large, resulting in the generation of further income.

### **Cost Recovery Measures**

- Consideration be given to applying some level of charge for services now provided free of cost by Government or increasing charge where currently applied – e.g. costs of services such as ploughing, spraying, etc.

### **Securing Stabilization Funds**

- The Government of Anguilla has available to it in 2017 approximately EC\$10.5 million representing Tranche 1 under the EDF 11 programme. Every effort should be made to obtain Tranche 1 funds by the end of March 2017.

### **Overdraft Facility**

- The Ministry of Finance and the Treasury Department to monitor the cash flow position on a daily basis in an effort to minimize the usage of the overdraft facility and as a result interest charges.
- (iv) agreed that the a number of these measures would be taken forward in a proactive rather than a reactive manner to as to assist in the management of public finances during 2017.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, FIN, PS, EDICTLP; OTHER PERM SECS; PAS FIN; DEP; BD;  
CPO; DM; CIR; ACC GEN; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 17/15

### **EX MEM 17/08 FILLING OF POSITION - DEPUTY LABOUR COMMISSIONER**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary remained in attendance.

Council:-

- (i) noted that the Deputy Labour Commissioner is due to retire in May 2017, but will proceed on pre-retirement leave in April;
- (ii) noted that the Deputy Labour Commissioner makes up part of the two person management team in the Department of Labour. The absence of such a position would leave a significant void in the Department as the Labour Commissioner already has a full slate and will be unable to carry out the duties of both posts;
- (iii) noted that the Labour Department has a current complement of eight staff, including the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, which is inadequate to effectively fulfil the current mandate of the Department. This situation will be further compounded when the new Labour Code comes into force;
- (iv) [*note on publication: redacted as contains personnel information*]
- (v) additionally noted that funds have been allocated for this position for the 2017 fiscal year; and
- (vi) agreed that the post of Deputy Labour Commissioner should be filled.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, MHA; PS, PA; PS, FIN; PS, EDICTLP; BD; ACC GEN

EX MIN 17/16

**EX MEM 17/09 TRANSFER TO THE ANGUILLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary remained in attendance.

Council:-

- (i) noted that on July 18, 2011 the Deputy Governor (Ag) approved the secondment of Miss Suzanna Proctor, Executive Secretary, Agriculture to the Anguilla Community College from July 20, 2011 until July 2012;
- (ii) noted that in June 2012 the President of the Anguilla Community College requested that the secondment of Ms Proctor be extended for an additional year as the College was in the process of introducing several new initiatives and the assistance of Miss Proctor would have been essential to the execution of those activities. A further extension was granted from July 2012 to July 2013;
- (iii) further noted that Miss Proctor's secondment was extended again for one year (July 2013 to July 2014) and then for two (2) years from July 2014 to December 2016. Her secondment to the Anguilla Community College expired on December 31, 2016;
- (iv) additionally noted that in a Memo dated 15 December, 2016 the Permanent Secretary, Education indicated that the College was proposing to engage Miss Proctor to serve as Special Assistant to the Dean of Studies, on a permanent basis and that Miss Proctor had indicated her willingness to remain at the College; and
- (v) agreed that Miss Proctor should be transferred to the Anguilla Community College under section 26 of the Anguilla Community College Act, 2008 sub-section (1) effective January 1, 2017.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, ELSYC; PS, PA; PS, MICUHAFIT; DIR, AGR; PS, FIN; PS, EDICTLP; ACC GEN

EX MIN 17/17

**EX MEM 17/10 FORMALISATION OF THE ANGUILLA NATIONAL STATISTICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ANSAC)**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary remained in attendance.

Council:-

- (i) noted that the official statistics are statistics published by governments and/or other public bodies such as international organisations. They provide quantitative or qualitative information on all major areas of citizens' lives, such

as economic and social development; including governments fiscal health, living conditions, health, education, and the environment;

- (ii) noted that the Anguilla Statistics Department (ASD) is mandated, as set out in section 2 of the Statistics Act to collect, compile, analyse, abstract and publish statistical information relative to the commercial, industrial, social, economic and general activities and conditions of the people who live in Anguilla. The legislation recognises the need for the ASD to collaborate with all other departments of Government and with local authorities in the collection, computation and publication of statistical records of administration. The Act also authorises the taking of any census in Anguilla and the organisation of a coordinated scheme of social and economic statistics and intelligence pertaining to Anguilla;
- (iii) noted that the mandate of the Anguilla Statistics Department (ASD) as outlined in law suggests, that it should inform users of the concepts and methodology used in the collection, processing and analysis of the official data along with a measure of the quality of the data. Users of the data must be supplied with such data and the definitions used in the production of that data, to assist them in verifying the conceptual framework to guide their interpretation and use of the data;
- (iv) noted that the Anguilla Statistics Department (ASD) continues to improve its social and economic programmes in the area of social and economic statistics. However, there is much work to be done in the area of collaboration with the producers and users of the National Statistical System (NSS) to ensure a high level of quality for the statistics produced;
- (v) further noted that one mechanism established to improve the quality and delivery of statistics, is the Anguilla National Statistics Advisory Committee (ANSAC). It was re-established in 2014. Its mission is to, “Promote the effectiveness of the Anguilla Statistics Department by advising and working with the Department to produce relevant and accurate statistics about Anguilla’s society and economy”;
- (vi) additionally noted that recognising that good quality statistics lend themselves to good policy and programme development, the ANSAC will seek to coordinate the development of the NSS in Anguilla, so as to support evidence based decision making for both the public and private sectors; and
- (vii) agreed that the ANSAC should be officially recognised and formalised as one of the ‘tools’ for improving the coordination and collaboration of the GOA Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as other important entities in the production of quality statistics about and for Anguilla.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDICTLP; CHIEF STAT

EX MIN 17/18

**EX MEM 17/11 PRIORITY TRAINING NEEDS FOR 2017**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary remained in attendance.

Council agreed that the paper should be deferred until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 for consideration to enable Members of the Executive Council to consider the proposed priority training areas for 2017.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: HON DG; PS, FIN; PS, EDICTLP; PERM SECS; TRNG OFF; EXCO,  
MEMBERS

EX MIN 17/21

**EX MEM 17/14 AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – B&F CO. LIMITED - REGISTRATION SECTION WEST END, BLOCK 18011 B, PARCELS 140, 147 & 150, CONTAINING 0.29, 0.48 AND 1.43 ACRES, RESPECTIVELY**

Hon Parliamentary Secretary, Messrs Larry Franklin, PS, EDICTLP, Foster Rogers, PS, HSD and DLS remained in attendance.

Council noted and agreed that the matter should be deferred pending further discussions between the Attorney General and the Director of Lands and Surveys. Council noted also that Mr John Benjamin, who owns the majority of the Shares in the company can already, as a Belonger of Anguilla, apply for a Business Licence without the need for an Aliens Land Holding Licence.

Council authorised the issue of the action sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, EDICTLP; PS, FIN; DLS; HON, AG

**ORAL MENTION**

EX MIN 17/22

**OVERSEAS TRAVEL**

Parliamentary Secretary remained in attendance.

Council was informed of the following:-

The Hon Minister of Health and Social Development - 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017, UNESCO and UNICEF meetings.

The Hon Minister of Infrastructure - 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017, on leave

Action: EXCO MEMBERS

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