

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA

Copy No.

MINUTES OF THE 77th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2022 AT 9.00 AM

- PRESENT:
- Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam
 - The Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance and Health,
Dr Ellis Webster
 - The Honourable Deputy Governor, Mr Perin Bradley
 - 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
 - Financial Specialist, Mr Stephen Turnbull

EX MIN 22/62

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

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

Council confirmed the Minutes of the 76th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 10th February, 2022 and the Special Meeting held on Monday 14th February, 2022.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 22/63

COVID-19 UPDATE

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

Epidemiology***Global overview***

For the past week (7 – 13 February 2022), globally, the number of new cases has decreased by 19%, while the number of new deaths remained similar to the previous week. This past week, across the six WHO regions, over 16 million new cases were reported and just under 75,000 new deaths were reported. As of February 13, over 409 million confirmed cases and over 5.8 million deaths have been reported.

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

Since the designation of B.1.1.529 as a VOC on November 26, 2021, several lineages have been identified. These include Pango lineages BA.1, BA.1.1, BA.2 and BA.3, which are all being monitored

by the WHO under the umbrella of 'Omicron'. The prevalence of BA.2 among sequenced Omicron cases globally, submitted to GISAID has been steadily increasing. As of February 14, 10 countries have reported a predominance of BA.2. Early evidence from limited studies suggests that BA.2 is more transmissible than BA.1. The following is a summary of an assessment by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) on findings, based on recent data:

- Increased transmissibility (household transmission studies).
- No evidence of increased severity of disease as yet.
- Similar vaccine effectiveness against BA.2 and BA.1.
- No difference in diagnostic accuracy of some PCR, antigen and antibody tests.
- Insufficient data on the differences in effectiveness of current treatments as against BA.2 and other (omicron) lineages.

Caribbean Region

Since the previous report on February 7, an additional 56,030 cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in 33 countries within the Caribbean, bringing the region's total confirmed cases to 3,175,595 in 35 countries/territories (including the 26 CARPHA Member States). The new total represents a 1.8% increase in the number of confirmed cases. There were 32,036 deaths recorded in the Caribbean Region as of February 14.

Anguilla

As of February 16, 2022 the total number of confirmed cases since the beginning of the pandemic in early 2020 is 2506 with 2476 recoveries, 9 deaths and 21 active cases. One fully vaccinated 77 year old is currently admitted to the Isolation Unit.

A virtual meeting was held on Tuesday February 15, between Anguilla, the UKHSA UKOT Programme and the UKHSA Field Epidemiology representative to discuss the feasibility of replicating a COVID-19 antibody study in Anguilla and the other UKOT territories. Two UK protocols were considered: blood bank sampling from persons 17+ (since August, 2020) and a community household survey (since April 2020) that includes respiratory specimens. Both

protocols involve repeated and ongoing sampling. The main consideration is the extensive resources required for either approach, especially given their repeated (longitudinal) nature. This is especially applicable for household surveys. Also, the blood banking system in Anguilla would not be as representative of the population as it is in the UK. Other feasible (UKOT setting) research possibilities for the antibody studies were discussed and interest was iterated.

With regard to schools, 32 school-aged children tested positive from January 28, to date: 9(28%) tested positive at school and 2(6%) were tested as school contacts. At this time, more cases are being detected outside of the school system and the majority are household contacts of cases.

Vaccination Deployment Update

Vaccine Uptake

As of February 16, 2022, 10,232 first doses and 9,511 second doses have been administered. In an estimated population of 15,500 total persons, this would represent 66% of the population having received the first dose and 61% of the population having received two doses.

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

- 483 persons age 12 - 17
- 3053 persons age 18 - 34
- 2908 persons age 35 - 49
- 2487 persons age 50 - 64
- 1321 persons age 65+

The occupational breakdown of first doses is as follows:

- 355 Healthcare workers
- 546 Civil and Border Protection
- 1831 Hospitality
- 1103 Retired
- 6433 Others

Distribution (Pfizer)

As of February 16, 3046 doses of Pfizer have been administered, this includes 667 first doses, 269 second doses and 2283 booster doses. This includes 483 first doses and 168 second doses for 12 - 17 year olds. This represents roughly 35% of the estimated 12 – 17 year old population.

Vaccine Stock

On February 16, 700 pediatric Pfizer doses with an expiry date of April 3, 2022 and 240 AstraZeneca doses with an expiry date of March 31, 2022 were received from the UK via Antigua. There are 2540 adult Pfizer doses currently in stock.

Vaccination for 5 to 11 year olds

Pediatric vaccination will begin with a walk-in day at Welches Polyclinic on Friday 18th February at 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm.

Further, the vaccination deployment committee recommends the prioritization of pediatric vaccination for the next two weeks. This includes deployment of vaccination staff to all public primary schools starting from Tuesday 22nd February through to March 7th 2022. To note, adult vaccination days will be curtailed to permit this activity. The committee has recommended that the pediatric doses be given 6 weeks apart to ensure that as many doses as possible are used up.

The Ministry has begun the public engagement campaign, including production of social media materials, radio appearances and a virtual PTA scheduled for next week. The Department of Education has also agreed to distribute material.

Exit Strategy Part 2

Based on the global, regional and local epidemiological situations, at the time of writing, the Ministry of Health maintains the proposed recommendations as outlined in last week's brief.

Council:

- 1) thanked the health team for their continued hard work;
- 2) noted that the death rate for Anguilla is low, but the data will be collated by the Ministry;
- 3) noted that the Ministry will continue to monitor the global epidemiological situation including the Omicron BA.2 subvariant;
- 4) noted that the Ministry will continue to follow up on the COVID-19 antibody study with the UKHSA counterparts. A follow up meeting is scheduled for next week;
- 5) noted that vaccination of 5 - 11 year olds shall be the main priority over the next 10 weeks. Efforts to promote the vaccine shall be increased and the use of trusted persons in video material should be considered. Vaccine uptake is expected to align with that seen for the 12 - 17 year old age range and further work is required to increase uptake in this category;
- 6) noted that the protocols for schools are working. There has been a report that some teachers have refused to test after being identified as school case contacts. Noted this was not in compliance with health regulations and the Permanent Secretary for Health is to take forward the relevant actions to address the breaches. Separately, the Honourable Deputy Governor is to consider any relevant disciplinary matters that these breaches may also raise;
- 7) noted that as it relates to the mask mandate the regulations currently in place provide for the use of masks inside when it is not possible to socially distance;
- 8) noted that in relation to the surveillance of persons in quarantine, in some instances limited resources have been diverted to other aspects of the health response and persons are monitored based on the perceived level of risk;

- 9) noted that consideration should be given to developing a medical exemptions protocol, to detail the process for persons who cannot be vaccinated;
- 10) further noted that the Ministry does not recommend any change as it relates to the proposed exit strategy and tentative commencement date of April 1. Agreed that as part of the exit strategy no booster vaccination will be required for persons under 17; and
- 11) reviewed the following existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on 28 February 2022, and approved amendment to change the pre-arrival testing window for PCR/NAA and other molecular tests to no more than three days prior to arrival and extension of the following from 1 March 2022 to 31 March 2022:
 - a) Public Health (Quarantine)(COVID-19) Regulations;
 - b) Quarantine (COVID-19)(Arriving Passengers Health Clearance) Rules;
 - c) Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations;
 - d) Public Health (Regulation of Ports) Regulations;
 - e) Public Health (Landing of Passengers)(Special Exemptions) Regulations;
 - f) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations; and
 - g) Emergency (COVID-19 Border Control) Regulations.

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 22/64

EX MEMO 22/41 FINANCIAL STOCKTAKE – AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND JANUARY 31, 2022

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

The following persons joined the meeting:

PAS Finance, Ms Marisa Harding-Hodge
Budget Director, Mrs Shona Proctor
Budget Officer, Ms Jamila Gumbs
Chief Project Officer, Ms Anthea Ipinson

Council:

- 1) thanked the team for work well done;
- 2) noted the report on the financial position as at December 31, 2021, and the snapshot as at January 31, 2022 from the Budget Officer;
- 3) requested a breakdown of Property Tax collections in 2021 to ascertain what portion of this relates to the recovery of prior years' arrears;
- 4) noted that the increased expenditure for personal emoluments and retiring benefits, as a result of the payment of deferred salaries was offset by savings in other areas;
- 5) noted that the information system for the Post Office is not yet completed;
- 6) the overall fiscal position remains challenging:
 - Overall financial position including debt amortization shows a surplus of EC\$19.14 million at the end of December;
 - Recurrent revenue was EC\$268.85 million this is EC\$9.03 million more than the original forecast. Overall percentage

impact on recurrent revenue for the major revenue heads as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are:

- Property Tax - positive 64.74%
 - Interim Stabilisation Levy - positive 2.55%
 - Taxes on Goods and Services - positive 26.05%
 - Excise Taxes - negative 9.69%
 - Taxes on Specific Services - positive 25.24%
 - Taxes on International Trade - negative 1.89%
 - Sale of Goods and Services - positive 29.46%
- Recurrent expenditure was EC\$214.76 million which is EC\$4.42 million under estimate;
 - Capital balance shows a deficit of EC\$2.14 million. Capital expenditure is budgeted at EC\$2.87 million, with a revised budget of EC\$5.48 million through supplementary. At the end of December 2021, capital expenditure totaled EC\$4.86 million, approximately 89% of the budget. In addition, Capital Revenue totaled EC\$2.72 million funded through the EDF 11;
 - noted that there are outstanding arrears to be paid and noted the list of Government expenditure arrears which totals EC\$33 million. Water Corporation arrears were paid in part in 2021 but new arrears of EC\$469K have been incurred, that need to be paid in 2022. Residual deferred salary arrears total EC\$1.99 million. Noted that consideration needs to be given to formally addressing the ASSIDCO arrears. Noted that there may be additional arrears as it relates to property rental and road matters and instructed the Ministry of ICUHT to provide the full list of arrears pertaining to roads for Council's consideration;
 - Central Government Debt inclusive of short term credit facilities moved from EC\$452.80 million at the end of 2020 to EC\$427.92 million at the end of December 2021. The reduction in debt is attributable to debt amortization payments of EC\$32.82 million, disbursements on the ACC Loan of EC\$0.84 million, disbursements on the 2nd PBL of EC\$20.25 million and exchange rate fluctuations of EC\$0.04 million;

- The Sinking Fund balance at the end of December 2021 is approximately EC\$2K; and
- The January financial snapshot shows, recurrent revenue of EC\$30.46 million, recurrent expenditure of EC\$13.22 million, amortization of EC\$4.77 million, no capital revenue and capital expenditure of EC\$23K.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC GEN;

MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 22/65

EX MEMO 22/42 APPOINTMENT OF REPLACEMENT MEMBER TO THE ANGUILLA SOCIAL SECURITY BOARD (ASSB)

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

Sections 1 and 3 of the Schedule to the Social Security Act R.S.A. c. S45 provide for appointments to be made to the Anguilla Social Security Board by the Minister for Finance in consultation with Executive Council. The current Board appointments are for a period of three years effective from August 17, 2020 and Ms. Simone Harrigan who represented the employees resigned effective November 30, 2021.

Council:

- 1) noted that due diligence has been completed and there are no known conflicts of interest which would affect Mr Hodge's appointment to the Anguilla Social Security Board. The Department of Inland Revenue has confirmed that Mr. Hodge's tax filings are up to date and his business licences are current for this year;
- 2) approved the appointment of Mr Clemvio Hodge to the Anguilla Social Security Board effective February 20, 2022 through to August 16, 2023; and
- 3) further noted that all members appointed to the Board must complete Governance and Accountability certification and

Public Financial Management certification training within three (3) months, with a body approved by the Ministry of Finance, failure to comply will result in removal from the Board.

Action: PS, FIN; HON, PREM

EX MIN 22/66

EX MEMO 22/43 APPLICATION FOR ISSUE OF LICENCE UNDER THE ALIENS LAND HOLDING REGULATION ACT – REGISTRATION SECTION SOUTH CENTRAL, BLOCK 38612B, PARCEL 359 CONTAINING 0.50 OF AN ACRE

Hon Parliamentary Secretary for Economic Development, 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 on a freehold basis, property situate in Registration Section South Central, Block 38612 B, described as Parcel 359 being 0.50 of an acre located at Swing High, Anguilla for residential purposes with a dwelling house thereon, subject to the following:

(a) payment of the following Stamp Duties:

(i)	under the Stamp Act – 5% of EC\$1,021,516.00	EC\$ 51,075.80
(ii)	under the Aliens Land Holding Regulation Act – 5% of EC\$1,021,516.00	EC\$ 51,075.80
	TOTAL	<u>EC\$102,151.60</u>

(b) the property must be used for residential purposes;

(c) the Licensee must not rent their dwelling house without first notifying the Ministry of Economic Development, Investment, Commerce, Information Technology & Natural Resources prior to renting the said property; and

(d) the Licensee shall fully comply with the laws of Anguilla from time to time including the Land Development Control Act, the Property Tax Act, the Building Regulations, the Labour (Relations) Act, the Social Security Act, the Immigration and Passport Regulations and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof and any rules or regulations made there under.

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