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MINUTES OF THE 45th MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ANGUILLA
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 27th MAY 2021 AT 8.00 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 21/172

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 that the Minutes of the 44th Meeting of Executive Council held on Thursday 20th May, 2021 would be approved by Round Robin.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

EX MIN 21/173

COVID-19 & ASTRAZENECA/OXFORD VACCINE 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 the meeting: -

PS, Health, Mr Foster Rogers
Chief Medical Officer, Dr Aisha Andrewin
Health Planner, Ms Rochelle Rogers
Commissioner of Police, Mr David Lynch

Update on the COVID-19 cluster investigation and current situation

As of May 27, Anguilla has recorded a total of 109 confirmed cases with 109 recoveries and 0 active cases from the cluster.

Cluster Cases Overview

All 78 cases of COVID-19 associated with the cluster first identified on April 21 have now recovered. There were three hospitalizations, and no deaths.

The following summary pertains to the 78 cases detected locally:

The cases identified consisted of 68 adults and 10 children ranging in age from 7 months to 77 years, including the 3 males that were discharged from hospital. There were 34 females and 44 males. The majority of cases were in persons aged 30 - 59 years old - 50 cases

(64%); under 30 years - 19 cases (24%) and 60+ years - 9 cases (12%).

17 persons reported a diagnoses of underlying medical conditions that are risk factors for severe disease and death if infected by COVID-19.

The cases within the cluster all shared a common exposure which was linked to a place, person and/or setting in time. There was a wide distribution of cases across various villages in Anguilla, with the largest number of cases in South Hill.

Testing and Contact Tracing

Upon identification of the cluster, the Ministry of Health undertook an aggressive contact tracing effort which led to COVID-19 testing of more than 1480 persons since April 22. The last positive cases were confirmed on May 10. Contact tracing has been exhausted at this point. The health team have not observed many respiratory infections within the community, hardly any persons are presenting to medical facilities with cough or cold symptoms or for COVID-19 testing.

June 7 will be two incubation periods since identification of the last cases from the cluster. All things remaining the same, the interruption of further transmission and resolution of the cluster may be declared on June 7, i.e. two incubation cycles or four weeks – since the last positive cases.

Vaccination Deployment Update

As of May 26, there were 9467 registered persons of which 9002 persons had received their first dose, representing 71% of the target population figure of 12,600 persons. Thus far, 5395 persons have received their second dose. The breakdown by occupation of first doses is as follows:

- 352 Healthcare workers
- 532 Civil, border protection and port staff
- 1816 Hospitality
- 1111 Retired
- 5656 Others

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

- 2811 persons age 18 - 34 (70% of target)
- 2819 persons age 35 - 49 (70% of target)
- 2476 persons age 50 - 64 (103% of target)
- 1313 persons age 65+ (109% of target)

Vaccine Stock

On Sunday May 23, the vaccination team received 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, due to expire on May 31, from Montserrat. The team is currently utilizing these doses at the main vaccination site and for 2nd doses in the community for shut-in persons. To date, there are around 310 doses remaining and it is anticipated that despite the lull in vaccination numbers, the majority of the doses can be used before they expire.

Vaccination Site

The vaccination team is once again utilizing one site at James Ronald Webster Park to give both 1st and 2nd doses, and there is still a dedicated station for 1st doses. This is owing to the reduced demand for vaccinations and also to ensure adequate staffing levels for the re-opening of the Welches Polyclinic.

Vaccine ID Cards

DITES continue to work to develop the vaccine cards.

Police update on enforcement and policing plan

The Commissioner of Police updated Council on the enforcement operations of the RAPF.

The enforcement operations are going well, and the level of compliance is good. Enforcement has been focused around land based and marine based surveillance. The marine based surveillance is expensive; especially when it is necessary to rent boats, one boat is currently rented. Using 5 observation points on

land, which shall be manned 24 hours a day, a drone and an interception boat, the borders can be well protected at reduced expense. Consideration needs to be given to ceasing the on land checkpoints and at sea surveillance and commencing surveillance and border protection, while positioned on the land.

As it relates to proposed Anguilla Day activities, there are insufficient resources to properly monitor water activities on the south side of Anguilla.

COVID-19 De-escalation of Measures

The Ministry of Health continue to stress the importance of the gradual relaxation of containment measures to limit the further spread of COVID-19. The Ministry supports the extension of the relevant Regulations with the stated recommendations, being cognizant of 2 full COVID-19 incubation cycles, since the last positive cases were recorded (June 7). The Ministry supports the implementation of Step 4 of the De-escalation of measures.

Council:

- 1) thanked the Health team for their tremendous efforts and excellent work done, to successfully contain the cluster and protect Anguilla's citizens, which is a testament to the exemplary leadership;
- 2) thanked the Commissioner of Police for the continued hard work and the phenomenal efforts made to protect Anguilla;
- 3) noted that the position as it relates to the COVID-19 cluster is stable and the health team are content. The programme and surveillance were effective and Anguilla has largely returned to the pre-cluster position;
- 4) agreed that persons located outside of Anguilla, who have been granted work permits, but are not able to access the vaccine where they are based, can be vaccinated in Anguilla

after they exit quarantine. Appropriate messaging shall be prepared in this regard by the Ministry of Labour;

- 5) agreed that rather than using “front line worker” terminology, it is preferable to use a definition that identifies high risk positions and the persons affected, particularly as it relates to Government policy and communications;
- 6) agreed that Anguilla could proceed to Step 4 in the table of measures;
- 7) agreed that for the May 31, Anguilla Day celebrations, there shall be no boat racing or movement of boats in our waters, as it is not possible to adequately monitor persons for compliance with the Regulations;
- 8) agreed that as it relates to fishermen, the restrictions on movement shall remain in place, fishing can take place in the waters to the north of Anguilla between the hours of 5am and 7pm and Council will review the position next week. There shall be no fishing in the waters to the south of Anguilla, no other scheduled times to collect pots and traps and no night fishing using boats. Additional resources would be required to properly monitor additional activities, especially those involving the use of boats in the water at night;
- 9) agreed that the Ministry of Health shall issue guidance on physical distancing and the use of masks in public indoor places and where physical distancing is not possible. This is necessary as persons are not clear on what is required of them in particular scenarios. The international guidance has been somewhat inconsistent, but the health team will review best practices and scientific guidance, in order to prepare the guidelines for Anguilla;
- 10) approved the extension of the Public Health (Temporary Restrictions on Movement of People and Public Gatherings) Regulations 2021, for a 1-week period from May 28 to June 7, subject to amendment, to include the related provisions for Step 4 of the de-escalation measures and the restrictions regarding fishing, as follows:

- (i) until June 7 physical distancing requirements will remain in place, as will required mask wearing for public indoor spaces and places where physical distancing is not possible;
- (ii) until June 7 restrictions to the movement of boats on our waters will remain in place including for Anguilla Day; fishing must only take place from the north side of the island between 5am and 7pm. There will be no night fishing from boats, but night fishing from the sea rocks, spear fishing and diving from the shore will be permitted;
- (iii) from May 28, there will be a de-escalation of all other measures:
 - The removal of the shelter-in-place order
 - The removal of the restrictions on the:
 - types of businesses permitted to operate,
 - restricted hours of operations (other than boats in our waters),
 - movement of persons, restaurant sit-down services, gyms, places of worship and religious instruction, visitors to residential homes, hospitals, the prison and social gatherings; and

(iv) on June 1 the full re-opening of all schools will occur;

11) reviewed the existing COVID-19 related Regulations which expire on May 27 and approved the extension of the following from 28 May 2021 until 30 June 2021:

- (i) Public Health (Regulation of Ports) Regulations;
- (ii) Public Health (COVID-19 Monitoring of Approved Businesses) Regulations;
- (iii) Public Health (Quarantine) (COVID-19) Regulations;
and

(iv) Quarantine (COVID-19) (Arriving Passengers Health Clearance); and

12) agreed that a joint statement by the Hon Premier and H.E. the Governor shall be issued today confirming the details of the way forward.

Action: PS, HLTH; PS, FIN; PS, EDCITENR; BD; ACC, GEN;
HON, DG; HON, AG; MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/174

EX MEM 21/93 EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

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

The Hon Premier briefed Council on the proposal to extend the unemployment assistance benefit given the ongoing health and economic crises. The 2021 budget provided for unemployment assistance to the value of EC\$7 million, by May 31 approximately EC\$4 million shall be used. With the extension until July 31, it is anticipated that a total of EC\$6.4 million shall be used.

Council approved the extension of the temporary unemployment assistance for a further period of two months to expire on July 31, 2021, continuing on the current terms:

- a) unemployed persons – up to EC\$1000 a month; and
- b) underemployed persons – the difference between EC\$1000 and the monthly salary; and all other terms and conditions of the assistance.

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, FIN; PS, SD; BD; ACC, GEN; HON, PREM;
MINS OF GOV'T

EX MIN 21/176

EX MEM 21/95 NATIONAL COMMERCIAL BANK OF ANGUILLA (NCBA) SHAREHOLDER'S COMMITTEE MEETING – AMENDMENT OF THE DRAFT INTERIM BY-LAWS

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

Council approved the amendment to section 8.5 of the draft interim By-Laws, to make provision for directors to be appointed for less than 3 years, subject to any decision of the Shareholder's Committee.

Council authorized the issue of the Action Sheet before confirmation of the Minutes.

Action: PS, FIN; EXCO MEM

EX MIN 21/177

PUBLIC HEALTH LANDING OF PASSENGERS EXEMPTIONS REGULATIONS

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

The Hon Premier indicated that there are certain scenarios where visitors cannot properly be granted entry to Anguilla, owing to the restrictive nature of the COVID-19 Regulations in place. Accordingly, some relief is necessary so that the Minister of Health may grant permission for persons to enter Anguilla, be tested and quarantine, in certain extenuating situations, where a Certificate of Entry has not been granted by the CMO.

Council will consider this matter further, review the draft Regulations and agree a way forward by Round Robin.

Action: EXCO MEM
