

Progress made on the commitments in the 2012 Joint Ministerial Council communiqué

Anguilla

The global financial crash has hit Anguilla particularly hard due to its reliance on the tourism sector, which depends heavily on income growth in industrialised nations. According to the East Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) figures, Anguilla's economy is projected to grow 0.93% in 2013. In 2012, there was negative growth of -2.61%. As such, the overriding economic priority for the Government of Anguilla is to diversify the economy and move away from a heavy reliance on one sector, with a competitive, sustainable, long-term economic policy. This will ensure that Anguilla flourishes in accordance with the spirit of the White Paper on the Overseas Territories from 2012.

Jobs and Growth

Increasing investment and trade

The Government of Anguilla (GoA) has begun the process of identifying mechanisms that will facilitate and encourage the efficient flow of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and investment in the island in general. The Economic Development, Investment and Commerce Section is currently assessing policies, procedures and legislation/regulations with a view to revising those elements that may hinder investment and commerce. In particular the FDI application will be simplified without compromising due diligence and probity.

Additionally new policies will be developed that hitherto were not part of doing business on the island. An Investment Policy is in the early stages of being developed that sets the parameters for incentives geared at attracting FDI and other types of investments.

Developing entrepreneurship and small businesses

The Government of Anguilla is promoting Anguilla as an island open to new investment. This includes a commitment to longer term strategic planning to diversify the economy. Work is underway with the Anguilla Community College and the Financial Services Commission to introduce training in the skills necessary for the financial services industry to grow.

The Anguilla Regional Law Revision Centre is growing and recently won the contract to perform Antigua and Barbuda's law revision worth over EC\$1.5m. The Government of Anguilla also recently supported an initial request by the St James Medical School about the possibility of their Bonaire campus relocating to Anguilla. This could potentially double the current number of overseas students (currently 300) who come to study and live in Anguilla and could lead to the development of ancillary businesses on island to support a growing student population.

Infrastructure investment

The GoA is currently in discussions with the European Commission on the disbursement of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) to support the medium-term economic strategy. Now that the Framework for Fiscal Sustainability and Development (FFSD) has been put into Anguillan law (via the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2013), arrangements are being made to release a £3 million grant from the UK Government for Capital Development. A careful cross-GoA assessment has identified as priority areas for investment as the island's schools, its fire station, enhancements to the roads of the capital – The Valley, and The Valley multi-sports facility.

Meeting international standards on tax co-operation and financial sector regulation and combating financial crime, bribery and corruption

The GoA has already signed 17 International Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEA) and automatically exchanges tax information with European Union Member States in respect of some financial products under the EU Savings Directive. The GoA has also requested the extension of the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance on Tax Matters.

Anguilla has welcomed the action taken by the United States under its Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) which represents a significant move towards wider automatic tax information exchange which has been embraced by a number of EU Member States. Consequently, GoA has agreed to participate in pilot multilateral tax information exchange being developed by the UK, France, Germany, Italy and Spain (G5). Under the agreement, based on the US FATCA, a wide range of financial information will be automatically exchanged between the five countries and the Overseas Territories. GoA will also agree a FATCA-type agreement with the HMG.

More generally, GoA has continued to support the UK's presidency of the G8, and the G8 agenda, particularly as it relates to beneficial ownership of companies. GoA will be examining the robustness and effectiveness of its current regulations and approach as they implement the revised Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations adopted in 2012 and prepare for the fourth round of mutual evaluations. To this end, GoA will carry out a risk assessment and have published an Action Plan to address areas for improvement.

At the moment, GoA is in the early stages of preparing a public consultation regarding the establishment of a central registry.

The Environment and Green Growth

Management and protection of the natural environment

In January 2013 the Department for the Environment started to participate in an environmental mainstreaming initiative supported by the UK Government.

GoA is receiving a unique package of measures to assist the Government on sound planning and policy decisions based on a clear understanding of the nature and distribution of its natural assets. This includes terrestrial and marine habitat mapping funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC), and an assessment of the economic value of the environment to Anguilla's economy funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Having worked closely with Defra to establish the suitability of local legislation, GoA is currently in the process of requesting the UK to extend the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to Anguilla.

Sustainable fisheries

There is enormous potential for Anguilla to better harness its fisheries in a sustainable way that delivers benefits for the economy. GoA is seeking UK and EU support with regard to developing sustainable fisheries management plans, the policing of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the potential establishment of Fishing Agreements/Licences for E.U. vessels.

GoA is also keen to take forward discussion with the UK Government on the possibility of Royal Navy ships Atlantic Patrol Task (North) (the Royal Navy presence in the Caribbean) assisting in policing and enforcing Fishing Agreements/Licences.

Renewable energy

The GoA contracted a consultant, Castalia Strategic Advisors from Washington DC, USA, to undertake a study into renewable energy in Anguilla. The part-DFID funded Anguilla Renewable Energy Integration Project (AREIP), published in October 2012, aimed to provide a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for implementing renewable energy in Anguilla. Specifically, AREIP's objective was to provide recommendations on how to update Anguilla's laws and regulations to enable renewable energy to be integrated into the national electricity grid. AREIP also looked at barriers, such as limited access to finance or information; to provide a more complete assessment, and guide the next steps for developing renewable energy. Work is needed in 2014 with the electricity generator ANGLEC to progress this important agenda.

Support from International Organisations

Strengthening relationships with the EU, Commonwealth and other international organisations

The GoA continues to strengthen its relationship with the Commonwealth. Anguilla has benefitted from Commonwealth technical assistance in priority areas. Two short term consultancies, as part of a larger tourism project, will begin in late 2013.

The GoA also continues to work closely with the EU Delegation in Barbados on the current European Development Fund (EDF) budgetary support allocations. Anguilla also welcomes the increase in the overall allocation to EU Overseas Countries and Territories by Euro 58.8 million for 2014–2020 and looks forward to working with the UK Government to ensure that UK Overseas Territories are able to benefit from this increase in tangible ways.

Better Government

Developing democratic institutions

Anguilla's Executive Council has recently approved in principle a number of steps to improve the fairness and transparency of elections. These include the redrawing of electoral boundaries, to reflect changes in Anguilla's demography and patterns of settlement, which have resulted in serious disparities in the distribution of registered voters among the seven electoral districts. Consideration is also being given to implementing a voter identification card within the context of a National Identification System. It is being proposed that Election Registration legislation be amended to regulate party campaign financing to include the requirement for public disclosure of contributors to, and recipients of, election campaign expenses in addition to providing other controls and checks. Work is now underway to determine the viability and time frame for implementation of these proposals. Those that can will be implemented before the next election, expected in 2015.

Ministers have additionally agreed that the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association should provide independent observer missions for the next election, the first time that independent monitors will have been deployed in Anguilla.

Integrity in public life

A training workshop on Good Governance, funded by the Governor's Office, was held for over seventy senior public and private sector workers in September 2013. This received widespread coverage and provided senior leaders with knowledge and tools to cascade through their organisations.

Anguilla's Executive Council have tasked officials to develop policy proposals for a Freedom of Information Act, which will increase transparency and access to GoA information for the public, helping to ensure higher standards of integrity in public life.

Codes of conduct

The Code of Ethics for the Anguilla Public Service (APS) was developed in 2007 to assist public servants in their daily efforts to achieve and maintain certain standards in public life. It serves to remind all public servants and the public, of the aspirations of the public service as regards the values that it is hoped will pervade the entire service. The Code embodies the seven principles of public life. The GoA is currently developing a Code of Ethics for ministers and parliamentarians.

Strengthening the public service

The strong relationship between the GoA and the Commonwealth Secretariat has continued, with assistance being given to the GoA for training in 2010, 2011 and 2012 in Administrative Law, Management and Leadership Development, Customer Service Excellence, and an Administrative Law Refresher Workshop. There is the expectation that there will be further training opportunities to strengthen the capacity of the Anguilla Public Service.

Public Administration continues to conduct training sessions to increase officers' knowledge, skills and understanding and to develop attitudes needed to bring about desired developmental change in areas such as Conflict Management, Interpersonal Skills and Team Building. In addition, Customer Service training was conducted across the public service in 2012.

Improving service delivery, including through e-government

The Government of Anguilla has begun exploring the possibility of introducing a National Identification System. It is hoped that such a system will enhance the performance of public service departments and increase efficiency, through improved co-ordination between departments, and improved access for the public to Government-delivered services. Additional benefits include a more manageable voter registration system.

GoA also recently implemented the Asycuda Customs system which eliminated much of the paper used with the legacy system and allows the Brokers and Shipping Agents to process their transactions online. Once the requisite legislation is in place, the GoA hopes to launch a system that will allow members of the public to pay for Government services online.

Strengthening public financial management

The Government of Anguilla continues to improve and strengthen its public financial management system with assistance from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB), Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), FCO and DFID through regular reviews, initiatives and technical assistance.

In 2013 the Government of Anguilla and HMG agreed a Framework for Fiscal Responsibility and Development, which passed into law in November 2013. As part of this agreement, the Government of Anguilla will produce, by May 2014, a Medium Term Fiscal Plan covering its strategy for the overall management of public finances over the next three years.

The Government of Anguilla is in the final stages of procuring an external audit regime, and has appointed a Chief Auditor to ensure that government's accounts are audited to a high standard. This is a critical development as both functions have not been filled in the recent past, and effective oversight is important if the objectives of efficiency, transparency, accountability and external scrutiny are to be achieved in terms of GoA's financial management.

CARTAC has provided training for Ministry of Finance staff and in particular the Budget Director's office in financial management. This Ministry is now better placed to interface with other departments to ensure that the new programme budgeting initiatives are being adhered to and fully understood. It has also ensured that financial management is a continuous and active process, not a one-off phenomenon visited periodically. Ultimately the aim is to have a financial management system which would fully support the economy when it becomes buoyant again.

The Government of Anguilla has fully embraced the Canada-Eastern Caribbean Debt Management Advisory Services (CANECDMAS) Programme. The main objective of the project is to assist member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union in strengthening and improving debt

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management capabilities to effectively manage debt portfolios to sustainable levels. Under this programme staff in the Debt Unit, as well as other officers in the Public Service, have received training in a number of areas such as Debt Sustainability Analysis, Risk Management, Development of Medium Term Debt Strategy, and Evaluation of Sources of Financing.

Other initiatives under the programme include a comprehensive assessment of Anguilla's debt management functions in 2010 using the Debt Management Performance (DeMPA) tool developed by the World Bank. The Ministry of Finance is now preparing to conduct a new assessment of debt management scheduled for this fiscal year 2013/2014. In September 2013 training in the area of Negotiation Techniques for Sources of Finance is slated to take place in-country to provide training to a wider group of stakeholders

The programme also seeks to address the issues of transparency and accountable and therefore seeks to ensure that international recognized standards are met. Emphasis has been placed on the reporting and publishing of debt information. Thus, under the programme training has been undertaken in the preparation of Debt Portfolio Reviews. As a result Debt Portfolio Reports are produced annually. The intention is to make the document accessible to the general public to facilitate transparency and accountability of government's debt management activities.

Institutional strengthening is also an aspect of the programme. The Debt Unit staff complement has been increased to two officers, strengthening middle office functions. The on-going DMAS debt capacity building and technical Assistance Programme is improving debt management capabilities within Anguilla.

Procurement

The Government of Anguilla passed a new Procurement Act at the end of 2012, and implemented it during 2013. The new system is more robust than the previous tendering process and provides greater control and management of Government resources.

Stronger and Healthier communities

Sport and healthy lifestyles

Sport plays a large part in life in Anguilla, and this year Anguilla's star athletes continued to show that they can compete with the best in the world. Shara Proctor, for example, broke the 30 year-old British long jump record, came 5th in the World Athletics Championships, and was awarded the Diamond League Trophy. Chesney Hughes scored a magnificent 270 not out for Derbyshire against Yorkshire.

The Department of Sport organises sporting activities and competitions at school and community level, and works with the island's sporting associations to build capacity in various sports.

On 21 September 2013, the Governor's Office and the Sports Department held an Olympic Anniversary Sports Fair, which gave exposure to and encouraged increased participation in sports. Follow up events are planned in 2014 around the Commonwealth Games baton relay, and the Games themselves.

Disability

Several units have been set up within the education system to provide enhanced care for those with learning disabilities.

In September 2012 GoA held a National Forum on Disability. The objectives of the forum were to raise awareness of issues in Anguilla, and commence working on a national policy on disability.

The Governor's Office is funding a therapeutic programme for children with disability, and to train parents and staff in occupational therapies.

Children

The Ministry of Social Development has established a Child Protection Steering Committee with the mandate of developing an Action Plan ensuring that Anguilla is in full compliance with all the articles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child Protection Steering committee has transformed into a Project Team and has been implementing the Safeguarding Children in Anguilla Project on an ongoing basis. The project 's deliverables have included 'Keeping Children Safe Training' for professionals, awareness sessions for civil society groups, child protection training for Church Leaders, the publication of a guidance booklet on recognizing and reporting child abuse, and the introduction of a standard reporting form for use by professionals.

The Ministry of Social Development in conjunction with UNICEF has developed an Interagency Child Protection Protocol which provides guidance and support on good practices for the identification, reporting, investigation, case management, and prosecution of child abuse cases. The Safeguarding Child in Anguilla project has expanded into a media campaign with specific outreach to children themselves and to the Spanish Speaking Community.

The Department for Youth and Culture organises a range of cultural activities for children aged 11 to 18 during the summer months. The department has also been facilitating the development of a

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number of youth centres in various communities where young people can go to participate in leisure and developmental activities.

Tackling Discrimination

The Government of Anguilla has made a commitment to requesting extension of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to Anguilla. The Governor's Office is funding a programme of activities to deal with discrimination against those with disability and HIV/Aids sufferers.

Meeting international obligations

Anguilla continues to strive to meet its international obligations. The Education Bill passed in 2012, *inter alia* abolished corporal punishment from schools, in line with the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child. GoA is also working towards the establishment of a Gender Unit in the Ministry of Home Affairs. This will be an important step to help the GoA fulfil its commitment to request extension of CEDAW to Anguilla.

Safer Communities

Strengthening coordination on tackling crime

The GoA, through the Ministry of Social Development and the Economic Development Unit, is working closely with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to develop a project for youth at risk especially those involved in gangs. This initiative will begin late 2013 and run into 2014 as an initial intervention.

Additionally, the Ministry of Social Development has initiated another intervention aimed at establishing a community centre in The Valley to target at-risk youth. This initiative coupled with other community centres already established form part of a concerted effort by the Government to engage youth at all levels in the society.

The Ministry of Social Development is also spearheading a programme known as “one on one encounters” where at risk youth are peered with individuals who can act as mentors in the community and assist young people in navigating life’s challenges. Parenting Programmes are also currently being developed this year as a strategy to target parents of at risk youth.

In September 2013, the Education Department began to conduct anti-drug and anti-crime sessions at the commencement of every school term for secondary schools students. While this programme is initially designed to assist students to transition from the primary to the secondary school system it will also be delivered throughout secondary school system on an ongoing basis.

In the Royal Anguilla Police Force, 13 new recruits were officially welcomed by the Police Commissioner, bringing the total number of the force to 102. By the end of 2013, all front line police officers will have received training on how to tackle domestic violence in all its forms, and to provide support to victims, funded by the Governor’s office.

Prisons and probation

The Department of Probation continues to work toward the reduction of offending and recidivism while at the same time providing non-custodial sentencing for appropriate offences. The Department of Probation is undertaking an ambitious Annual Work Plan for 2013 that includes the development and implantation of policies in relation to parole and the Zenaida Haven Juvenile Rehabilitation Centre. These are among other critical areas towards ensuring the sustainability of the Department.

A new prison wing, funded by the FCO and completed in 2013, is now fully operational and has substantially addressed overcrowding.

With the constitution of the Parole Board and the passage of the amendments to the Parole Legislation in 2012, the Parole Board received thirteen applications for the parole of prisoners in April 2013. Of that number eleven Pre-Parole Investigative Reports were produced for the consideration by the Parole Board in June, when the first ever Parole Hearings were held in Anguilla. This has been a significant development in the criminal justice system in Anguilla, and has had the added benefit of helping to alleviate overcrowding at the prison.

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Probation staff have received training in relation to sexual offences. Additionally, with FCO funding, staff have been trained in risk assessment, victim impact and other areas to strengthen to delivery of service for Parole.

Disaster preparation and resilience

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has been providing technical assistance in the development of a Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Policy, review of our CDM Strategy (through cooperation with the Disaster Office in the BVI); amendment of the current Disaster Act and development of the associated Regulations.

The Department for Disaster Management has also continued a rolling programme with other Government Departments, education providers and the private sector to increase awareness, mitigation and business continuity planning. Over the past year, noticeable highlights have included participation in the Caribbean tsunami exercise (Caribewave, March 2013) with the development of School Tsunami plans; Annual All Hazard and risk reduction safety fair; risk reduction award; attendance at the cross-OT Disaster Management Seminar in Miami, Children's Annual Library summer programme themed "We Ready we safe"; preschool Safety Plan sensitisation; community emergency response team training; addition of weather radios and marine alerting to the Anguilla warning system; development of the draft national emergency communication network policy; installation of the logistics support centre; hazard identification trainings; and work on improving plans to deal with a waterborne incident such as cruise ship or ferry and development of a draft tsunami response plan.

Strengthening public health systems

During 2013, Anguilla has received support from Pan-American Health Organisation to strengthen disease surveillance and laboratory services, which in turn has helped to strengthen public health systems.

Tackling chronic non communicable diseases

Anguilla's Executive Council approved the establishment of a Non Communicable Disease (NCD) Commission in August 2012. Since then, the Commission has been working on developing an NCD policy and action plan. They have also developed a proposal for a survey to give the GoA a better understanding of the current levels of chronic disease risk factors in this population, provide a baseline to track the direction and magnitude of risk factor trends, and plan and evaluate health promotion and prevention campaigns. It is hoped that funding for this survey will be available in 2014.

International Health Regulation compliance

As with other Territories, Anguilla has had a review of its compliance with International Health Regulations. The Government of Anguilla has developed a plan of action which will, in part, focus on strengthening Port Health Systems. The Ministry of Health will be developing protocols and MOUs with key stake holders to provide guidance on the collective actions required in the event of a public health threat. With support from PAHO, health officials in Anguilla will work to develop a plan of action for chemical safety in collaboration with neighbouring St Martin/St. Maarten. Anguilla's Ports

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of Entry (Sandy Ground and Blowing Point) now appear on the IHR listing as designated ports of entry. Now that these ports have been designated, the Department of Health Protection will be conducting ship inspections and issuing ship sanitation certificates in accordance with the IHRs. The Government of Anguilla will continue to work with PAHO to strengthen its core capacities as the territory strives to fully comply with the IHRs.

Education

Strengthening participation and attainment

The Education Bill was passed into law December 2012, becoming the Education Act 2012. This was an important milestone in that it abolished corporal punishment in all schools in Anguilla and also prohibited the employment of children of compulsory school age (5-17 years) during the Academic year (with exceptions for children fourteen years and older who can be employed on weekends and vacation periods).

Early childhood education

The Governor's Office is sponsoring a programme, currently underway, to build capacity amongst Day Care Providers and Play School Teachers to deliver quality early learning experiences to infants and toddlers. A team is being trained to deliver the principles and practices of quality early learning experiences to new Day Care Providers, Play School Teachers, Parents to be, new Parents, and Caregivers as needed on a one to one/workshop basis.

The Ministry of Social Development with the assistance of UNICEF is also undertaking the development of an Early Childhood Development Policy as well as standards and a regulatory framework to govern this sector.

Tertiary education

In 2013 the FCO funded with a grant of EC\$460,000, the establishment of a Technical Vocational and Training centre within the Anguilla Community College, which offers City and Guilds qualifications. Discussions are progressing well on securing a loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) with which the College will commence construction of a new building in 2014.

Lifelong learning

The Anguilla Community College continues to offer programmes in business, hospitality, personal development and short term professional development courses and 'second chance' courses.