Seventeenth Meeting of the Second Session of the Thirteenth House

ANGUILLA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

OFFICIAL HANSARD REPORT

9 NOVEMBER 2026

(House Meetings)

Hon. Speaker

Speaker

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PRAYERS

PRAYER

Chaplin:

Almighty and Everlasting Father, We come before Your divine presence today, acknowledging You as the source of all wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. We thank You for Your goodness, Your protection, and Your continued blessings upon Anguilla and its people. Lord, as we gather for the presentation of this National Budget, we invite Your presence to guide our deliberations. We ask that You grant our Premier, Ministers of Government, Members of the House, and all those entrusted with public responsibility the wisdom to make decisions that will positively impact our nation.

We pray for sound judgment in the allocation of national resources. May every decision be guided by integrity, transparency, accountability, fairness, and a genuine commitment to the welfare of the people. Lord, remember those who are struggling financially, those seeking employment, our vulnerable citizens, our business community, and those who depend on Government support. May the resources of this nation be managed with compassion and responsibility.

We pray for the economic stability, sustainable development, and continued prosperity of Anguilla. Protect our leaders May this House remain united in purpose, even where there are differences in opinion. Let the ultimate goal be the advancement of Anguilla. We declare that Anguilla shall continue to be a nation of peace, opportunity, justice, and prosperity. we pray your blessings upon this House today throught Christ our Amen.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

Thank you it has been moved and seconded that the minutes circulated dated 4th November 2026 be confirmed those in favor say aye those opposed say no the ayes have it

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO NEW MEMBERS

Vanisha Proctor:

Oath of allegiance to new Members. None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY DIRECTION OF THE SPEAKER

Vanisha Proctor:

Announcements by direction of the speaker.

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

first let me take this opportunity to welcome our Members and welcome our clergy our officers but I also wish to take this opportunity to welcome our youth in particular and the members that are in the gallery the Anguilla Youth Parliament has just had its first its newest appointment and its newest cohort and we welcome them and I've invited them to have a standing presence as we debate this Bill into next week

I also want to take this time to acknowledge one of my invitees Mr Wingrove Carty who's very involved in constitutional discussions and I thought it would be really important to have him sit in and observe so thank you for taking the invitation I have the apologies of the Leader of Opposition who sends his regrets for not being able to attend yes yes of course and I do want to take note and special note of our former premier Mr Banks who recently celebrated his birthday as well and thought it best to join us today so we are happy that you have taken the time I know last year we had the pleasure of having Mr Harrigan with us and Mr Harrigan I can't believe it's been a year already Mr Harrigan spent at least a couple days with us during the debate so I as I've said to the youth parliamentarians today, today is the Honourable Premier's day today is her budget address but of course the excitement that you should return for at any time next week will be the debate and that's where you will see the scrutiny and you will hear both sides of the argument and you will see the committees that will be spearheaded by the senior civil servants as well so

I wish to take this opportunity to welcome everyone

OTHER BUSINESS

APPROPRIATION 2027 ACT 2026 — FIRST READING

Vanisha Proctor:

Questions, None. Government Statements on recent developments none. Papers none. reports from committees none. petitions none. government notices none. private members notices none. motions none. personal explanations none. other business government business a Bill for Appropriations 2027 Act 2026 first reading.

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

Thank you I invite the honourable Minister of Finance Premier to move a motion

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Good afternoon to you Madam Speaker good afternoon to the Members of this Honourable House persons visiting in the gallery and those who are joining us via radio and social media Madam Speaker I beg to move that the bill shortly entitled the bill for Appropriations 2027 Act 2026 period of first time

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

thank you. is there a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second Madam Speaker

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

Honourable Members it has been moved and seconded that the Bill shortly entitled a Bill for Appropriation 2027 Act 2026 be read a first time those in favor say aye those opposed say no the ayes have it

Vanisha Proctor:

an Act to provide for the services of the government of Anguilla for the financial year ending the 31st day of December 2027

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

I recognise and I call upon the Honourable Premier, Honourable Miinister of finance

APPROPRIATION 2027 ACT 2026 — SECOND READING AND BUDGET ADDRESS

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Madam Speaker I moved at the Bill shortly entitled the Bill for Appropriations 2027 Act 2026 be read a second time

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

thank you Honourable Premier is there a seconder?

Hon.Cardigan Connor:

I rise to second Madam Speaker

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

Honourable Members it has been moved and seconded that the Bill shortly entitled a Bill for Appropriations 2027 Act 2026 be read a second time those in favor say aye those opposed say no the ayes have it I now invite the Honourable Premier to move and to present the budget address

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

thank you Madam Speaker Honourable Members of the house of assembly distinguished guests and my fellow Anguillians it is with gratitude and humility that I present the government of Anguilla's budget for the 2027 fiscal year under the theme investing in people building with purpose delivering for Anguilla I give thanks to almighty God for his guidance and protection and to the people of Anguilla for their trust when this administration assumed office in 2025 we promised to put people first to govern with purpose and to ensure that economic progress and the well-being of our people go hand in hand that commitment remains at the heart of our work last year's budget moving forward together people purpose prosperity set our direction and affirmed that true progress is measured by how it improves people's lives the 2027 budget builds on that foundation moving from setting out our vision to strengthening the foundations for its implementation through deliberate decisions responsible investment and the focus on

results our theme reflects three commitments translated into six priorities for the 2027 budget one advancing health and social well-being better hospital and community health services stronger mental health support expanded specialist care and greater protection for vulnerable families and older persons two, building a more productive and self-reliant economy sustainable diversified growth through food security investment promotion and strategic partnerships that make Anguilla a competitive destination three, empowering youth through education skills and sports stronger early education better teaching skills training scholarships career pathways and youth sports four, securing resilient infrastructure and clean energy reliable water waste and environmental management roads ports government buildings digital infrastructure maintenance and renewable energy to lower electricity costs five strengthening national security and emergency preparedness modernized community safety surveillance and border protection including radar and related technologies and better emergency response and coordination and six, modernizing government and public service delivery a smarter faster more accountable public service through better data digital systems stronger project execution and clearer standards these priorities are interconnected better health and education strengthen our people a productive economy creates opportunity reliable infrastructure and security support investment and a capable public service turns commitments into outcomes together they build an Anguilla that is more resilient and more prosperous we pursue these ambitions amid global uncertainty including geopolitical tensions economic shifts climate risks and rapid technological change but from a position of growing strength tourism is resilient our business community is a vital driver of activity and extraordinary dot ai domain revenues have created financial opportunities of historic significance but

Madam Speaker extraordinary opportunity brings extraordinary responsibility we must invest in what our people need today while safeguarding Anguilla's finances for tomorrow strong revenues do not by themselves guarantee lasting prosperity that depends on the decisions we make and the institutions we strengthen the opportunity before us is not simply to spend more it is to achieve more build stronger foundations and secure lasting benefits for the people of Anguilla this administration remains guided by the Anguilla united front's people plan ensuring that growth delivers better health care stronger education opportunities for young people safe for communities and essential services that work that means managing public resources responsibly grounding investments in sound planning holding institutions accountable for results and having the discipline to make difficult decisions and see them through the 2027 budget reflects that responsibility we are investing in our people building the infrastructure and institutions to support their aspirations and placing greater emphasis on execution accountability and results our vision remains clear our priorities are deliberate and our responsibility is to deliver

Madam Speaker I turn now to the performance of the Anguillian economy in 2026 the theme investing in people building with purpose delivering for Anguilla provides the framework for assessing that performance it reminds us that economic progress must strengthen the capabilities and wellbeing of our people be advanced through carefully selected and sustainable investment and deliver measurable improvements in the lives of Anguillians the latest tourism price and investment indicators provide an important picture of the economy's direction and the opportunities and pressures facing us the external environment in 2026 continues to present a challenging backdrop for our small highly open and import dependent economy such as Anguilla geopolitical uncertainty disruptions to trade and supply chains and movement in energy and commodity prices can all affect the cost of imports transportation construction and business operations these pressures reinforce the importance of economic resilience prudent fiscal management and policies that strengthen domestic productive capacity

Madam Speaker the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank projects real GDP growth of 5.89 per cent they suggest continued expansion and resilience the latest available estimates place growth at 5.70 per cent in 2024 and 3.90 per cent in 2025 providing the recent context against which 2026 performance should be assessed tourism remains the principal engine of economic activity and the indicators for 2026 point to continued strength in the sector during the first six months of the year stay over arrivals reached 81,907 an increase of almost 20 per cent compared with the corresponding period in 2025 this momentum supports activity across accommodation restaurants transportation retail and other tourism related businesses it is also important however to look beyond visitor numbers the economic contribution of tourism depends on visitor expenditure length of stay local sourcing and the extent to which Anguillian workers and businesses participate in the value chain our focus must therefore be on converting stronger demand into greater local value added quality employment and sustainable business opportunities the strong tourism performance is encouraging but it also places demands on the island's capacity sustaining growth will require attention to accommodation availability workforce skills and availability service standards water and energy supply transportation and the management of environmental pressures construction and public investment remain important channels through which economic activity employment and infrastructure improvements are supported in 2026 the planned and ongoing program of public works together with private residential and tourism related development will continue to influence demand across the sector a major development is a Clayton J Lloyd International Airport runway expansion the construction contract was signed in October of 2026 with preparatory work expected to begin this month this is a strategic investment in Anguilla's future connectivity and productive capacity its potential benefits include improved access stronger tourism prospects and greater investor confidence those benefits will depend on disciplined project management sound financing environmental safeguards local workforce participation and complementary investment in supporting infrastructure on the cost of living the latest available data shows that the all items consumer price index was 1.4 per cent higher in September 2026 than in September 2025 although a decline by 0.6 per cent compared with the previous quarter price movements remain uneven transport and restaurant and hotel costs recorded notable annual increases while food prices declined these developments matter for household purchasing power and business operating costs government must continue to monitor price developments and assess the effectiveness of

measures while ensuring that support is appropriately targeted and fiscally sustainable

Madam Speaker taken together the 2026 indicators point to an economy that is continuing to expand supported particularly by tourism and strategic investment but one that remains exposed to external shocks and domestic capacity constraints the government's task is to sustain momentum while managing downside risks including higher import costs climate related events labor constraints and pressure on essential infrastructure

Madam Speaker I will now provide a synopsis on the 2026 fiscals for revenue expenditure overall balance and debt total recurrent revenue to the end of September 2026 stood at EC $555.0 million dollars that is 93.1 per cent of the EC $595.9 million dollar budget compared with the same period in 2025 collections are up by EC $92.1 EC million dollars or 19.9 per cent for the full year revenue is forecast at approximately EC $716.8 million dollars about EC $120.9 million or 20.3 per cent above budget overall tax revenue as at September 2026 totaled EC $242.0 million 84.6 per cent of the EC $286.2 million dollar budget and slightly ahead of profile we forecast a year end out turn of approximately EC $301.6 million or 105.4 per cent of budget

Madam Speaker taxes and goods and services remains our largest source of tax revenue we expect them to finish the year at EC $199.9 million against a budget of EC $183.98 million dollars this was the first full year of the new general services tax and the new goods tax as with any new tax our forecast for these two are still being refined as more data comes in the general services tax is expected to bring in about EC $122.7 million modestly above the EC $109.9 million we budgeted the good tax is expected to bring in about EC $24.4 million slightly under the EC $26.6 million we budgeted taken together the two new taxes are expected to bring in about EC $147.1 million which is EC $10.7 million more than we planned stamp duty has already passed its budget for the year at EC $13.2 million dollars and is projected to close the year at EC $15.9 million taxes on payroll mainly the interim stabilisation levy continue to be a steady and reliable source of revenue collections were EC $19.9 million dollars as of 30th September with an end of year forecast of EC $26.4 million against a budget of EC $26.1 million dollars these points to stable employment and good compliance taxes on property reached EC $7.5 million by September and are projected to close the year at EC $8.9 million just above the budget of EC $8.3 million dollars taxes on international trade and transactions recorded EC $42.8 million to the end of September and a forecast at EC $60.0 million just below the budget of EC $60.8 million the shortfall comes mostly from import duty on fuel and gas where collections have been minimal since June due to cost of living concessions other import duties are holding up well finally taxes on income profits and capital gains made up of the bank deposit levy brought in EC $6.3 million collected in July no further receipts are expected this year against a budget of EC $7.0 million

Madam Speaker tax revenue is broadly on track collections are about 4.8 per cent lower than for the same period last year that is expected because the first nine months of 2025 were collected under the old goods and services tax the new system is bedding in and most categories are at or ahead of budget non-tax revenue has had another exceptional year at 313.1 million to September it has already exceeded its full year budget of EC $309.7 million we forecast a year end outturn of approximately EC $415.2 million above 34 per cent above budget the main driver continues to be sales of goods and services which reached EC $304.1 million by September and is forecast to close the year at EC $404.1 million dollars well above the budgeted EC $303.2 million within this that ai domain revenue brought in EC $269.6 million to September that already exceeds its full budget of EC $253.6 million and is up 60 per cent on the same period last year domain revenue now accounts for almost half of all government revenue monthly receipts peaked at EC $39.3 million in april and have eased to about EC $26 million a month for the remaining three months we have prudently assumed around EC $25 million a month which would take full year domain revenue to about EC $358 million dollars property income has also performed above expectations with receipts of EC $6.3 million to date mostly interest on deposits and the projected outturn of EC $8 million against a budget of EC $4.8 million dollars fines and penalties though modest are at EC $0.24 million against a budget of EC $0.15 million transfers not elsewhere classified are expected to close at EC $2.8 million above the budgeted EC $1.6 million dollars

Madam Speaker domain revenue has given Anguilla real fiscal room we also know that it depends on a fast moving global market and that is why we continue to treat it with caution in our forecast and to use it to build buffers not to fund recurring commitments we cannot sustain

Madam Speaker recurrent expenditure for 2026 was budgeted at EC $397.8 million dollars actual expenditure as of 30th September was EC $272.6 million 68.5 per cent of budget and about 6 per cent above the year to date profile we project a year and outturn of approximately EC $429.5 million about 8 per cent above the original budget estimate aided by supplementary appropriations expenditure has been prudently managed across all major categories moluments the largest component stood at EC $114.9 million at the end of September with an expected year end outturn of EC $159.5 million against a budget of EC $153.4 million this increase reflects a commitment honoured the completion of the compensation review with new salary scales now in place and retroactive payments dating from May 2026 made to public servants in August goods and services stood at EC $81.7 million with an expected outturn of EC $156.1 million within the budget of EC $164.6 million dollars current transfers totaled EC $58.6 million to September already above the full year budget of EC $50.6 million driven mainly by social services payments as the government continued to provide financial assistance to households affected by the fuel crisis and to persons requiring medical overseas treatment the year end outturn is expected at EC $87.3 million of the key lines at September 2026 included interest payments of EC $7.4 million dollars and retiring benefits of EC $10 million this year end outturn are expected at EC $10.3 million and EC $16.4 million respectively on this basis the recurrent account is forecast to end the year with a surplus of approximately EC $287.4 million dollars

Madam Speaker capital grinds for 2026 was limited to

earnings of EC $33,065 from an insurance claim settlement this reflects the completion of the Anguilla economic recovery program and the final disbursements under the EU resemblance program in 2025 Madam Speaker the 2026 capital budget was the largest this government has presented we knew from the start that the program of this size would test our capacity to deliver in 2027 project readiness will determine the timing of major implementation allocations and the institutions responsible for delivery will be held accountable for progress the fundamental principle remains every dollar invested should be tied to outcomes that matter for our people our communities and our shared prosperity

Madam Speaker capital expenditure for 2026 has reached EC $112.2 million at the start of November representing approximately 46.2 per cent of the revised capital budget of EC $242.6 million dollars capital expenditure is projected to reach EC $222.13 million by year end representing 91.6 per cent of the revised budget following supplementary number two and an increase of approximately 45.9 per cent over the EC $152.3 million spent in 2025 accelerated investment in the Clayton J Lloyd International Airport development project accounts for much of this growth the Clayton J Lloyd International Airport development has been the anchor of the program EC $71.6 million or more than 80 per cent of the years allocation has already been invested this is a single most important step we can take to open Anguilla to more visitors more airlines and more business in the area of public safety the Royal Anguilla Police Force and His Majesty's Prison have received new tactical equipment and the first three phases of the CCTV system at the prison have been completed work is underway under retrofit of the joint emergency services control room the offender electronic monitoring system has completed another year of its pilot given our probation and correctional officers a stronger tool to supervise offenders in the community in Education our primary schools have received new perimeter fencing and gates providing safer controlled access for our children electrical upgrades and new doors and windows have been completed at WISE the pupil referral unit and the ESL Unit and new furniture has been delivered to our schools the development at Vivien Vanterpool Primary school has been completed construction of the technical block at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School continues and in 2027 we will out fit it with the equipment and furniture our students need for technical and vocational training

Madam Speaker health services development has once again been one of the strongest performing areas of the capital program EC $15.5 million or 99 per cent of the allocation has been invested in medical equipment and the rehabilitation of our health facilities in infrastructure and public services the Jeremiah gums highway South Hill link road is substantially completed supported by road development consultancy the contract for the Jeremiah gums highway water pipeline has been awarded and the procurement for the long path component is on track government has also taken delivery of six new buses and new it equipment has been rolled out across government departments consultancy and the retrofit of relocation offices are underway for the government office accommodation project Madam Speaker we must also be honest about where delivery has been slower outside the airport about 26 per cent of the capital budget has been spent land acquisition office accommodation water and roadworks all need surveys design and procurement before construction can begin and that takes time projected underspense are being reallocated through the budget reallocation matrix to areas of need including health equipment and government vehicles the 2027 program has been built with these lessons in mind allocations now follow project readiness more closely and design and procurement are funded before full construction budgets are committed

Madam Speaker taking the recurrent and capital accounts together for the full year the overall surplus is projected at approximately EC $65.2 million compared with a budgeted deficit of EC $33.8 million dollars after accounting format as a amortisation payments of EC $34.05 million the overall balance for 2026 is projected to remain in surplus at approximately EC $31.2 million dollars against a budgeted deficit of EC $73.2 million this result comes mainly from strong domain revenue and a slower pace of capital spending while recurrent spending stayed controlled despite cost of living assistance

Madam Speaker public debt continue to decline during fiscal year 2026 maintaining its downward trajectory observed in previous years preliminary estimates show that total public debt which comprises central government government guaranteed and government non-guaranteed debt of state owned enterprises soes is projected at EC $265.81 million 16.88 per cent of GDP at the end of fiscal year 2026 a decrease of EC $26.58 million compared to 2025 total public debt stock of EC $292.39 million 20.45 per cent of GDP at the end of fiscal year 2026 central government debt stock is projected at EC $258.11 million 16.39 per cent of GDP and estimated decrease of EC $34.5 million compared to the 2025 debt stock of EC $292.16 million 20.44 per cent of GDP government guaranteed debt stock is projected at EC $ 0 .17 million less than 1 per cent of GDP and estimated reduction of EC $0.06 million compared to the 2025 debt stock of Ec $0.23 million less than 1 per cent of GDP government non-guaranteed debt is projected at EC $7.53 million less than 1 per cent of GDP versus no government non-guaranteed debt in 2025 of the outstanding projected dead stock for the end of 2026 central government debt stock projections account for 97.1 per cent of the portfolio government guaranteed soe debt stock projections 0.07 per cent and government non-guaranteed soe debt projections accounting for 2.83 per cent domestic debt is projected to account for 65.29 per cent EC $173.54 million of the portfolio and external debt the remaining 34.71 per cent EC $92.27 million

Madam Speaker during the fiscal year 2026 central government contracted no new debt and made no disbursements given robust financial performance the sole line of credit the ECCB cash advanced facility was once again unused there were no new borrowing or disbursements for government guaranteed debt government non-guaranteed debt did rise through new borrowing for Anguilla Air and Seaports Authority acquisition of the mariners property in Sandy grown initially EC $18.82 million and projected to decline to EC $7.53 million by the end of 2026

Madam Speaker the cost of servicing central government debt is projected to move from EC $42.69 million amortisation EC

$34.05 million and interest payments EC $8.64 million in 2026 to EC $49.26 million amortisation EC $39.9 million and interest payments EC $9.36 million in 2027 this 15.37 per cent or EC $6.56 million increase is primarily attributable to a change in billing policy of the Caribbean Development Bank which took effect from January 2026 and the expiration of the grace period on an existing loan from this creditor scheduled for 2027 in addition the cost of debt is rising and this affects the variable interest rate on the external debt which now resets every six months as per the new billing policy versus every three months as was prior nevertheless my government stands committed to managing the debt servicing costs through its continued prudent debt management practices

Madam Speaker the government is required to keep its death within three limits set out in the framework for fiscal sustainability and development known as the FFSD first our net debt must not be more than 80 per cent of recurrent revenue second our yearly debt payments must not be more than 10 per cent of recurrent revenue third we must keep enough savings or liquid assets to cover at least 90 days or 25 per cent of recurrent expenditure may I also remind you

Madam Speaker that the government achieved full compliance with all three borrowing limits at the end of the 2025 fiscal year with the debt service ratio being the last of the three limits to achieve compliance today I am proud to report that preliminary projections for the end of 2026 show that the government of Anguilla will continue to maintain this full compliant status net debt ratio is projected at minus 14.06 per cent making this ratio compliant by 94.06 per cent the debt service ratio at 7.22 per cent making this ratio compliant by 2.78 per cent and the liquid assets ratio at 87.13 per cent approximately 313 days making this ratio compliant by 62.13 per cent the debt to gdb ratio the measure used by our regional partners is projected at 16.88 per cent at the end of 2026 down from 20.45 per cent in 2025 the ECCU ceiling is 60 per cent so we are 43.12 percentage points below that limit

Madam Speaker our debt continues to fall and is projected to remain sustainable MTEFP projections show nominal debt decline in over the medium to long term with central government principal repayments of ec $39.9 million in 2027 expected to ease as no new borrowing is planned and several debt instruments mature we project continued compliance with all FFSD ratios in the medium term the government expects to draw down liquid assets and reserves at the end of 2026 to fund the contributions to the forthcoming sovereign wealth fund and other national priorities as reflected in the 2026 budget but the liquid assets ratio is projected to remain compliant we are paying what we owe saving for the future and protecting the stability that allows us to keep investing in our people

Madam Speaker the safety of all people is among government's most fundamental responsibilities no family should live in fear no business should operate under the threat of crime and no young person should believe violence is inevitable we must create an environment in which our people feel safe and the institutions protecting Anguilla have the resources and capabilities to do their work security today extends beyond policing to border protection the administration of justice and emergency preparedness and the demands of vigilant forward looking investment

Madam Speaker the Royal Anguilla Police Force remains central to safeguarding our communities protecting our borders and responding to crime in 2027 we will strengthen the force through targeted recruitment specialist training and investment in equipment and investigative resources emphasis will be placed on criminal investigations financial intelligence and firearm capabilities so that our officers can better detect and respond to serious and organised crime we will also improve evidence management investigative procedures and scenes of crime facilities justice begins long before a matter reaches the courtroom with the professionalism of an officer the preservation of evidence and thoroughness of an investigation but policing cannot succeed through enforcement alone we will support community policing through additional special constables and a new police cadet program strengthening the bond between police and community and given young and brilliant discipline leadership skills and a path into an honourable profession

Madam Speaker as an island surrounded by open waters Anguilla must protect its maritime borders our water support our fishermen facilitate commerce and form part of the environment on which our livelihoods depend and they must be protected against illegal activity in 2027 we will strengthen maritime security by developing a dedicated marine unit within the Royal Anguilla Police Force supported by two vessels funded by the United Kingdom government this will improve our capacity to patrol and monitor our waters respond to incidents and enforce the law against illegal fishing smuggling and other unlawful activity it will also allow closer coordination among the police force customs immigration fisheries authorities and other agencies

Madam Speaker we have also been engaged in stakeholders on the operation of visiting vessels in Anguilla's waters and on balancing in maritime activity with the interest of shore-based businesses and the quality of our tourism experience we are therefore updating our cruising permit framework and reviewing related regulatory and licensing arrangements so that maritime activities are conducted responsibly and fairly our objective is to keep Anguilla a welcoming maritime destination while safeguarding the environment and visitor experience on which tourism depends together with continued investment in surveillance technology communication systems and specialist training these measures will give us a more coordinated and effective approach to protecting our island the security of Anguilla cannot be left to chance it requires preparedness vigilance and well-equipped institutions

Madam Speaker safeguarding our borders must go hand in hand with keeping Anguilla accessible welcoming and competitive as tourism expands air connectivity improves and more people move through our ports our border management systems must meet growing demands in 2027 we will move forward with implementation of the new border management system with completion targeted for October 2027 this investment will give immigration and customs officers better technological tools strengthen coordination improve their identification and management of border related risks and speed the movement of residents and visitors through our ports of entry it is especially important as we transform the

Clayton J Lloyd International Airport modern infrastructure must be matched by modern systems so that arriving in Anguilla reflects the quality of the destination we are developing without compromising our security our objective is a border that is secure a process that is efficient and an experience that reflects the standards Anguilla is working to achieve

Madam Speaker a secure and effective correctional system is essential to public safety in 2027 the government will continue to strengthen the operations of His Majesty's Prison with emphasis on institutional security professional development inmate welfare and rehabilitation investment will support improved perimeter fencing body worn cameras and continue training for prison officers strengthening safety accountability and management of the facility we will also improve access to healthcare for inmates because a safe and humane correctional environment includes attention to physical and mental wellbeing but the purpose of a correctional system must extend beyond confinement we must prepare individuals where appropriate to return to society with the skills discipline and support to make better choices through continued collaboration with the Anguilla Community College we will expand vocational training and practical skills development within the prison improving inmates prospects for employment and reintegration after release

Madam Speaker accountability for wrongdoing is essential but so is recognising that rehabilitation can reduce repeat offending and strengthen the long-term safety of our communities a correctional system that prepares individuals to return as more productive members of society is an investment in safer communities and a stronger Anguilla the effective admission of justice is fundamental to the rule of law and to public confidence in our institutions justice must be fair accessible and delivered within a reasonable time in 2027 the government will continue to support reforms that make criminal proceedings more efficient including implementation of the new eastern caribbean supreme court criminal procedure rules and the abolition of preliminary increase to streamline proceedings reduce unnecessary delays and bring matters before the courts more promptly the attorney general's chambers will continue to strengthen it's legal and prosecutorial capacity through specialist training improve case management and closer coordination with law enforcement we will place particular emphasis on modernising criminal case management using electronic systems to prepare monitor and progress matters manage prosecutorial workloads and improve coordination among the institutions involved

Madam Speaker we are also paying greater attention to victims and witnesses participation in the criminal justice process can be difficult and intimidating particularly in cases involving domestic violence and sexual offenses in 2027 we will therefore advance arrangements for permanent witness care capacity improved facilities for vulnerable witnesses and stronger procedures for managing and prosecuting domestic violence and sexual offense matters while preserving fairness and due process we will also continue to work to modernise the colonial and inquest system with clear procedures timely investigations and appropriate support for families seeking answers after the loss of loved ones

Madam Speaker the strength of our justice system is measured by the confidence it inspires our people must know that the law will be applied fairly that vulnerable individuals will be treated with dignity that criminal matters will be pursued professionally and that justice will not be unnecessarily delayed and an effective justice system is indispensable to the kind of safe fair and accountable Anguilla we are determined to build

Madam Speaker at the heart of this budget is a conviction that has guided this administration from the beginning the greatest strength of Anguilla lies in its people our development is not measured only by the strength of our economy or the scale of our infrastructure but by the opportunities available to our children the well-being of our families the dignity of forwarded to our elderly and vulnerable and the ability of every Anguillian to share in the future we are building when we invest in our people we do more than respond to today's needs we strengthen the foundations on which tomorrow's Anguilla will stand that investment must extend across every stage of life from early childhood education to professional development from protecting vulnerable families to creating opportunities for our young people so that no one is denied the chance to realise their potential

Madam Speaker few investments touch our people as directly as healthcare for someone awaiting a diagnosis a parent with a sick child or a family facing the uncertainty and expense of overseas care timely and reliable healthcare is fundamental our responsibility is to keep strengthening the services available here in Anguilla so that fewer people must travel overseas for essential care during 2026 we made important progress in expanding local diagnostic and treatment capabilities the acquisition of a new mammography machine strengthened our capacity for breast cancer screening and during breast cancer awareness month free mammograms were offered at the welch's polyclinic at the princess alexandra hospital our surgical team performed Anglec's first laparoscopic hemicolectomy an important milestone in the development of local surgical expertise the hospital also maintained local medical oxygen production and opened its new mortuary facility strengthening essential hospital operations and ensuring more appropriate and dignified arrangements for the handling of remains in addition we advanced arrangements for the acquisition of three additional ambulances to strengthen our emergency medical response capabilities

Madam Speaker these developments demonstrate the importance of investing not only in medical equipment but also in the professional skills and institutional capabilities necessary to provide more complex services locally in 2027 we intend to build upon this process a major priority will be advancing the commissioning of Anguilla's helium-free magnetic resonance imaging system MRI including completing the necessary installation technical preparations and staff training this investment has the potential to significantly improve local access to diagnostic imaging and reduce the need for overseas referrals for examinations that can be provided safely and effectively in Anguilla.

We will also advance preparations to expand ophthalmological and orthopedic surgical services through improvements in

operating theater capacity sterilization arrangements specialist equipment and nursing support Madam Speaker the ability to provide more services locally offers important benefits it can reduce the financial burden on patients and families improve continuity of care and allow more Anguillians to receive treatment within the support of their own communities but the expansion of services must be matched by the development of the healthcare workforce the 2027 estimates therefore provide approximately EC $1.81 million in new spending for the department of Health Services supporting improvements to both hospital and community-based care this includes provision for two additional registered nurses to support the planned four bed intensive care unit at the Princess Alexandria Hospital preparations for the operation of this unit will also require suitable clinical accommodation specialist equipment and the necessary supporting services we are also providing for two additional dialysis nurses to strengthen the reliability and continuity of this essential treatment for patients who depend on regular dialysis maintaining an uninterrupted treatment schedule is critical to their health and their quality of life at the community level we will strengthen nursing capacity at the Agnes Agatha Richardson Clinic in West End and provide additional general practitioner capacity to improve access to primary care and home visits these improvements are particularly important for our elderly residents persons with limited mobility and patients who require continuing care following discharge from hospital in 2027 we will advance plans for the development of rehabilitation services at the eastern clinic and access improvements to the western polyclinic including the provision of an ambulance bay we will also continue the preparatory work towards the development of a new hospital for Anguilla this will involve defining the clinical requirements of the proposed facility examining financing options and determining an approach appropriate to face implementation the development of a new hospital is a major undertaking and it must be guided by a clear understanding of the services and glory requires the capacity of our healthcare system and the long-term financial implications of the investment and that is why careful preparation is essential our objective is to ensure that when this major investment proceeds it is supported by the planning necessary to deliver a facility that meets the needs of our people

Madam Speaker improving the availability of healthcare is only part of our responsibility we must also consider whether our people can afford the care they need for managing for families managing chronic illness older persons on fixed incomes and individuals without adequate health insurance the cost of medicines and the treatment can be a significant burden during 2026 the ministry of health advanced initiatives under the national strategic plan for health 2025 to 2030 to strengthen financial protection and access through med access pilot project implemented with the private sector 175 uninsured and brilliant under the age of 70 received access to medicines for hypertension and diabetes laying a foundation for partnerships with private pharmacies government has also expanded its medical subsidy arrangements to support dialysis treatment for 21 and brilliance at the Princess Alexandra Hospital these initiatives address immediate needs but we must also consider the broader financing needed for a sustainable and accessible health system in 2027 we will advance the development of Anguilla's universal health coverage roadmap this will include a comprehensive assessment of health insurance and financing options examining how Anguilla can progressively strengthen financial protection and improve access to affordable healthcare the roadmap will set priorities financing options and phased implementation targets and will consider how services are funded who is covered and how financial risk are shared we will also work towards a harmonised medical subsidy policy to improve the consistency equity and sustainability of government assistance our objective is clear access to necessary healthcare should be determined increasingly by the needs of our people rather than solely by their ability to pay

Madam Speaker a strong healthcare system must do more than respond when our people become ill it must help prevent illness support healthier lifestyles and identify risks early this matters particularly as we confront non-communicable diseases including hypertension and diabetes which affect families and place continuing demands on healthcare services prevention must be guided by reliable information in 2027 the estimates provide EC $136,230 dollars towards a 12-month initiative to address the backlog in the coordinate of electronic patient records better records will strengthen our analysis of service show where access gaps remain and help direct resources towards those most in need supporting coordination between healthcare planning public health and wider social and demographic data prevention must also begin early in life during 2026 the ministry of health working with the department of education and regional public health partners advanced preparatory work on nutrition standards for schools this will establish clearer standards for foods provided and sold in schools and early childhood settings informing a national school nutrition policy so that our children can develop healthy habits from an early age the health of future generations will be shaped not only by the medical services we provide but also by the choices and conditions we help create today that is why prevention health education and early intervention must remain central to our public health agenda

Madam Speaker we have heard the concerns raised by residents about waste collection the cleanliness of our communities and abandoned vehicles in 2020 the estimates provide approximately EC $227,725 dollars in additional expenditure for health protection supporting enhanced waste collection during the christmas and new year period street and beach cleaning in high traffic areas and continued removal of derelict vehicles we will also strengthen engagement with employers businesses and communities to improve food safety and workplace health standards

Madam Speaker these are practical investments that contribute to cleaner communities safe for public spaces and a more attractive environment for residents and visitors alike protecting public health begins long before someone enters a clinic or a hospital it begins in the conditions we create across our communities Madam Speaker the strength of any society is reflected not only in the prosperity it creates but in the care it extends to those who need it most for this government social development is not simply about helping when difficulties arise it is about building stronger families healthier communities and a society in which every individual can live with dignity security and purpose during 2026 we continue to strengthen the social

protection services upon which many Anguillians depend we expanded our professional capacity to respond to the mental and emotional well-being of our people through the appointment of a second clinical psychologist and a substance misuse therapist recognising that those entrusted with educating our children also requires support we introduced an employee assistance program pilot providing education staff with access to confidential services to help them navigate personal and professional challenges

Madam Speaker these may not be the investments that attract the largest headlines but their importance cannot be overstated for a child in need of protection a family struggling with difficult circumstances or an individual seeking psychological support timely and compassionate intervention can make an extraordinary difference and that is precisely why these services matter we will also strengthen the support available to families navigating overseas medical treatment through the appointment of a dedicated medical social worker helping to provide professional guidance and coordination at a time when families are often facing considerable emotional and financial strain further investment will support specialized training for foster carers and exploratory work to inform the future development of the place of safety ensuring that our plans for this important facility are guided by the care accommodation and protection needs of the children it is intended to serve in 2027 we will strengthen community development capacity including dedicated support for the Island Harbour community while advancing the development of community facilities and recreational spaces that encourage participation connection and social well-being provision of EC $1.25 million has been made towards the development of a community center and green space in Valley North reflecting our commitment to creating environments that support recreation community engagement and a stronger sense of belonging for the families who live there we will also improve our capacity to monitor and evaluate social development programs ensuring that interventions are informed by evidence responsive to change in needs and capable of demonstrating meaningful results because

Madam Speaker compassion must be accompanied by effectiveness it is not enough to establish programs we must ensure that they reach the people for whom they were intended that they respond to genuine needs and that they make a lasting difference Madam Speaker our responsibility to protect the vulnerable must go hand in hand with our determination to build safer communities during 2026 Anguilla took an important national step with the passage of amendments to the Criminal Code strengthening legal protections against gender-based violence for all Anguillians this represents an important contribution to the protection of individuals and families reinforcing the principle that violence abuse and intimidation have no place in our society this represents an important contribution to the protection of individuals and families reinforcing the principle that violence abuse and intimidation have no place in our society in 2027 we will advance the partnership for peace program for which provision has been made to support an intervention cycle during 2027 the program will seek to address violent behavior encourage personal accountability and reduce repeat offending

Madam Speaker accountability and rehabilitation must not be regarded as competing priorities an island that is serious about public safety must be equally serious about addressing the circumstances and behaviors that contribute to offending during 2026 work continued to advance the development of purpose-built facilities to strengthen the care and rehabilitation of young people in 2027 we will continue the development of Zenaida haven to strengthen the care supervision and rehabilitation of vulnerable young people providing the infrastructure for more structured and effective interventions these investments will be complemented by improved probation case management and the use of electronic monitoring to strengthen supervision and accountability

Madam Speaker none of us should be indifferent to the circumstances that lead a young person into difficulty we must hold individuals accountable but particularly with our young people we must also recognise the possibility of growth change and rehabilitation a mistake made early in life should not automatically become a sentence against an entire future our responsibility is to create the conditions in which individuals can accept accountability receive support develop new skills and find a more positive path forward that is the balance we seek stronger protection meaningful rehabilitation and safer communities for all Anguillians

Madam Speaker if there is one investment that speaks directly to the future of Anguilla it is the investment we make in the education of our children the world in which they lived and work is changing rapidly technology is transforming industries new occupations are emerging and the skills required to succeed are evolving before our very eyes we cannot afford to prepare our children for a world that no longer exists we must equip them not only with knowledge but with the ability to think critically solve problems adapt to change and seize opportunities that previous generations could scarcely have imagined that is why education reform remains fundamental to our development agenda during 2026 we continue to advance the Anguilla education reimagined 2025 to 2030 framework strengthening the foundations for more inclusive responsive and future-focused education system the continued role-out of digital systems across our public schools represented important progress in modernizing educational administration and supporting more effective teaching and learning in 2027 we will build on these developments through continued investment in the education management information system and learning management system strengthening the digital infrastructure training and support necessary for their effective implementation but

Madam Speaker educational transformation must be measured by more than the technologies we introduce or the facilities we construct it must also be measured by whether our education system recognizes and responds to the different needs and abilities of our children to this end the 2027 budget provides for the appointment of an occupational therapist within student support services and two additional special education needs teaching assistants these investments will strengthen our capacity to provide specialized assistance support inclusive learning environments and ensure that students requiring additional developmental or educational support are better able to participate meaningfully in school life

Madam Speaker every child has potential but not every child learns in the same way develops at the same pace of faces the same challenges our responsibility is not to expect every child to fit neatly within one approach to education it is to build a system sufficiently responsive to recognise different abilities provide appropriate support and give every child a fair opportunity to succeed we will also continue to strengthen support for early childhood education recognising that the foundations of learning are established long before a child enters secondary school at the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive school the planned completion of the package 4b technical and agricultural facilities will further advance our commitment to practical education and skills development these facilities will create improved opportunities for students to engage in technical and vocational learning develop practical competencies and explore career pathways aligned with Anguilla's economic needs importantly provision has also been made for EC $2.5 million in energy efficiency and air quality improvements within our schools supporting healthier learning environments and more sustainable public infrastructure

Madam Speaker these investments reflect our commitment to ensuring that our children learn in environments that are safe supportive and fit for the demands of modern education education must also prepare our people to take part in the economy and there is no single pathway to success for too long our region has put too much emphasis on traditional academic achievement while we still lack skilled trades people technicians and other professionals we must value every form of talent among our young people during 2026 the technical and vocational education and training unit developed a framework for work-based learning linking technical training recognised qualifications and employment in 2027 we will take further steps towards implementation through investment in apprenticeship and vocational safety training equipment cost development and supporting systems complemented by work-based learning opportunities mentorship and the recognition of prior learning

Madam Speaker the recognition of prior learning is particularly important for Anguilla across this island builders technicians artisans and other practitioners have developed expertise through hands-on experience but may lack formal qualifications that reflect it we want to create pathways through which their skills can be assessed recognised and where appropriate formally certified this is about opening doors to further train in career advancement greater earning potential and opportunities that once seemed beyond reach

Madam Speaker the objective of education cannot simply be the awarding of certificates it must be the development of capable confident and adaptable people who can contribute to their communities pursue meaningful careers and help shape Anguilla's future that is the education system we are working to build Madam Speaker our commitment to investing in people does not end when an individual leaves the classroom or enters the workforce in a world where industries are evolving and new skills are increasingly in demand learning must be a lifelong opportunity so that Anguillians can grow adapt and advance throughout their working lives against this backdrop the 2027 budget provides an additional EC $3 million for training and human capital development across Anguilla this is more than an increase in funding it marks an important shift in how government approaches the development of our people traditionally government supported training has been directed largely towards the needs of ministries and departments while the professional development of public officers remains essential the skills needs of Anguilla a far greater than those of the public service alone our economy needs qualified professionals our businesses need skilled workers our young people need pathways into meaningful employment and those already working need opportunities to strengthen their qualifications and advance we are therefore broadened access to government supported training moving away from departmental nominations towards opportunities that advertise widely and open to Anguillians from across the island whether you work in a public service or the private sector run your own business or seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce we want you to see the opportunities available to develop your skills and improve your prospects

Madam Speaker this is not about training for the sake of training it is about identifying the skills our island needs addressing critical gaps in our workforce and ensuring that our investment translates into greater productivity employment and economic participation every Anguillian who acquires a new qualification strengthens not only their own prospects but the productive capacity of our island

Madam Speaker the greatest investment we can make in Anguilla's future is an investment in the knowledge skills and potential of the Anguillian people Madam Speaker as we invest in developing the skills of our people we must also ensure that our labor market policies are informed by the realities facing workers and employers across Anguilla a strong economy requires more than the creation of jobs it requires a workforce equipped with the skills employers thank you I'm happy I didn't destroy the mic

Madam Speaker a strong economy requires more than the creation of jobs it requires a workforce equipped with the skills employers need opportunities for ingredients to advance and employment conditions at appropriately balance the well-being of workers with the sustainability of our businesses in 2027 government will undertake the second round of the Anguilla labor market survey building upon the first survey conducted in April of 2021 it will provide updated information on the demand for skills recruitment challenges workforce shortages and the training needs of employers across our island

Madam Speaker much has changed since 2021 our economy has evolved new opportunities are emerging and the skills our businesses require are changing the feeder is down?

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

I understand that the life is down would you wish for us to take a few minutes until it comes back up you want to stand down okay this House will take a brief recess five minutes this House now resumes its sitting and I thank you for your patience with the technology this is what happens sometimes but I'm sure our Honourable Premier was happy for water

break last that you pick back up from a bit more sentences before you may have your seats

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

thank you Madam Speaker much has changed since 2021 our economy has evolved new opportunities are emerging and the skills our businesses require are changing the findings will help us identify where the gaps exist and which qualifications are increasingly in demand they will also show how government educational institutions and employers can better prepare Anguillians for opportunities and will guide our expanded investment in training so that it is aligned with the needs of our economy but

Madam Speaker strengthening our labor market is not only about ensuring that our people have the skills to secure employment it is also about examining the conditions under which they work and earn their livelihoods in 2027 government will establish a committee to review the implementation of Anguilla's minimum wage framework introduced in January 2024 the framework will have been in operation for three years making this an appropriate time to assess its effectiveness examine the experiences of workers and employers and consider whether refinements or reforms may be warranted

Madam Speaker the minimum wage was an important step for Anguilla's workers but any significant policy must be evaluated and that is what this review will do we will look at whether it is working as intended how it has affected workers and businesses and whether compliance is effective we will listen to stakeholders so that future decisions are guided by evidence and by the experience of those affected our objective is a labor market that is productive fair and responsive to Anguilla's changing needs because economic growth must mean more than increased activity it must give our people the chance to develop their potential earn a decent livelihood and share in the prosperity of our island

Madam Speaker investing in our young people must extend beyond formal education sport culture creativity and community participation all contribute to the development of confidence capable and well-rounded individuals during 2026 national youth week provided an important opportunity for young Aguillians to express their views share their aspirations and participate in discussions about the future of our island but

Madam Speaker we must ensure that the voices of our young people are heard not only during designated celebrations both throughout the decisions and processes that shape their future it was in this spirit that in October 2026 we introduced the inaugural Anguilla's national girls of vision program under the theme see it be it lead it an initiative particularly close to my heart through a partnership between my ministry and unlimited potential girl commonly known as up girl we brought together girls between the ages of 11 and 18 for four days of inspiration mentorship and personal development the program created opportunities for our girls to engage with accomplished women explore career possibilities and participate in meaningful conversations about leadership financial literacy self-confidence identity and personal well-being

Madam Speaker the significance of an initiative such as this extends far beyond the activities of a single program there is something powerful about a young girl being able to look across her room see a woman who has achieved something extraordinary and begin to believe that she too can pursue her ambitions sometimes the difference between a dream that remains unspoken and an ambition that is pursued is simply the opportunity to see what is possible that is the essence of see it be it lead it we want our girls to grow up knowing that their potential is not limited by their circumstances their backgrounds or the expectations of others we want them to have the confidence to pursue opportunities the courage to overcome challenges and the determination to become leaders but

Madam Speaker as we invest deliberately in empowering our girls we must be equally intentional about the development of our boys our boys also need encouragement they need guidance positive role models and safe spaces where they can speak openly about the challenges they face explore their aspirations and develop the confidence to become responsible and capable young men it is therefore my pleasure to announce that in 2027 we will expand this approach to youth empowerment through the introduction of a national boys summit this initiative will provide a dedicated platform for boys and young men across Anguilla to engage in meaningful discussions about leadership personal responsibility mental wellbeing education career opportunities healthy relationships and the importance of positive decision making we intend to bring together male role models professionals mentors and community leaders who can share their experiences offer guidance and help our boys recognise the possibilities of available to them we want to nurture young women who are confident in their abilities and young men who understand their responsibilities young people who respect themselves and one another who are equipped to make sound decisions and who recognise that they each have something valuable to contribute to Anguilla because we cannot simply tell our young people that they are the future and then leave them to find their way on their own we must be prepared to guide them invest in them and create opportunities for them to discover what they can become

Madam Speaker our commitment to youth development also extends to strengthening sporting opportunities across Anguilla during 2026 we improved sporting facilities including fencing at the Sandy ground ball field new dugout coronation park and an outdoor gym we also advanced the legislative framework for sport and supported major events including the Anguilla tennis cup the eastern caribbean golf tournament and Anguilla's inaugural half marathon in 2027 we will strengthen grassroots sport expand our access to coaching and create clearer pathways for promising athletes to compete regionally and internationally the budget provides EC $2.9 million towards the sports hub at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School

Madam Speaker sport also opens opportunities beyond the playing field hosting competitions and welcoming visiting athletes benefits our tourism industry local businesses and communities it is therefore my pleasure to announce that

Anguilla will host its inaugural sports tourism summit in 2027 supported by a provision of EC $500,000. the summit will bring together regional and international partners to explore sporting events wellness and active tourism and Anguilla's position as a sports tourism destination it reflects our determination to create opportunities for our athletes and wider benefits for Anguillian businesses we want sport to be a pathway to personal development a source of community pride and a growing contributor to Anguilla's economy and

Madam Speaker just as sport contributes to the strength and confidence of all people culture reminds us of who we are throughout 2026 our cultural and library programs continue to support literacy lifelong learning heritage preservation and community engagement importantly the 2027 budget provides an additional EC $600,000 to the Anguilla festival's commission to support festival development and promotion

Madam Speaker our festivals music stories and traditions are more than entertainment they express our identity create opportunities for creative enterprise and are an inheritance we must preserve as Anguilla embraces new industries and technologies we must stay grounded in the values and traditions that have shaped us the initiatives I have outlined from inclusive education and skills development to social protection rehabilitation youth empowerment and cultural preservation share one purpose that the progress of Anguilla is reflected in the lives and opportunities of Anguillians through the investments made in this budget we are strengthening the foundations of a society in which more people can learn contribute achieve and thrive because

Madam Speaker investing in people is not simply one part of our development agenda it is the very foundation upon which everything else must be built Madam Speaker invest in our people must go hand in hand with creating the economic conditions in which they can thrive skills mean little without opportunities to use them our vision is an Anguilla that is productive competitive and self-reliant with more room for enterprise and less exposure to shacks beyond our control self-reliance does not mean isolation trade tourism and investment will always matter to a small island but there are areas where we can build our own capacity which is why we continue to invest in food production water security and business development

Madam Speaker the ability to feed our people remains one of the most fundamental dimensions of economic resilience as an island that depends heavily on imported food Anguilla is particularly exposed to fluctuations in international prices shipping costs disruptions to supply chains and changes in global market conditions these are challenges over which we often have little control but what we can control is the extent to which we invest in developing our own productive capacity and that is precisely what we intend to do during 2026 we continue to advance initiatives aimed at strengthening agricultural production supporting our farmers and fishers and encouraging more sustainable approaches to food production in 2027 we will build on these efforts by supporting increased local production across agriculture livestock and fisheries recognising the important contribution these sectors can make to food security economic diversification and the livelihoods of Anguillian producers a key priority will be the continued advancement of the multi-species abattoir providing the infrastructure necessary to strengthen local livestock production improve processing standards and increase the availability of locally produced meat

Madam Speaker the investments of this nature are about more than the construction of a facility there are about strengthening the wider agricultural value chain providing opportunities for livestock farmers to expand production and helping to create a more organised and sustainable market for locally produced food we will also continue to support modern production methods including shared house cultivation hydroponics and related agricultural technologies that can improve productivity while responding to the limitations of our climate and natural environment these methods offer opportunities to strengthen production efficiency improve the reliability of supply and support farmers in adapting to the increasingly challenging growing conditions our fisheries sector will also remain an important part of this agenda recognising both its contribution to the livelihoods of our people and its role in strengthening the availability of locally produced food

Madam Speaker we must recognise that food security cannot be achieved through individual projects alone it requires a coordinated approach to production infrastructure access to markets technical support and the development of a more resilient food supply system and it requires us to recognise that farming and fishing are not simply traditional activities to be preserved but productive sectors with opportunities for innovation entrepreneurship and economic growth we want to create the conditions in which more and grillians can participate in food production existing producers can strengthen their operations and locally produce food can play an increasingly important role in meeting the needs of our households and businesses

Madam Speaker few services matter more to everyday life than a reliable supply of clean water it is essential to our homes schools clinics and businesses yet for too many households aging infrastructure and unreliable supply remain a source of frustration we recognise these challenges and we are determined to address them in 2027 modernising our water infrastructure remains a major priority we will continue pipeline replacement and extension works expand district and smart metering strengthen leak detection reduce non-revenue water and improve water production and treatment

Madam Speaker non-revenue water is water we produce but earn no revenue from including water loss to leaks reducing these losses makes our water services more sustainable and means more of the water we produce reaches the households and businesses that depend on it our goal is straightforward a reliable efficient and sustainable water system that serves our people today and supports Anguilla's growth tomorrow

Madam Speaker building with purpose also means being deliberate about how we plan and manage the land and natural resources entrusted to our care in 2027 a major priority is the long-term national sustainable development plan which will guide Anguilla's development over the years ahead it will give us a clearer direction for investment infrastructure natural resources and our economic and social priorities

Madam Speaker a development plan must be more than a document on a shelf it must shape the decisions we make the projects we prioritise and the resources we allocate that means linking our long-term priorities to project preparation and the annual budget and preparing important investments early before substantial funding is committed we are not simply seeking to build more we are seeking to build better with stronger planning and a clearer view of the long-term benefits we intend to achieve alongside this work the government will continue to strengthen physical planning and land administration arrangements promoting more orderly development responsible land use and greater efficiency in the management of our land resources strategic land acquisition will continue to support development priorities where necessary with emphasis on ensuring that land related decisions are guided by clear public purposes and appropriate planning our responsibility is to ensure that the Anguilla we build is one that future generations will be proud to inherit

Madam Speaker Anguilla's growing prominence in the global digital economy presents opportunities that will extend well beyond the revenues generated by our dot ai domain our responsibility is to ensure that this unique national asset also contributes to developing the knowledge skills and capabilities of our people to advance this objective the ministry of infrastructure is partnering with the university of the west indies ai innovation center to establish Anguilla's first ai innovation campus this initiative will support training and skills development in emerging areas including artificial intelligence cybersecurity and project management while creating opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship

Madam Speaker our ambition is not simply for Anguilla to benefit financially from the growth of artificial intelligence but for Anguillians themselves to develop the skills and capabilities to participate meaningfully in this rapidly evolving global industry Madam Speaker the development of a modern and resilient Anguilla requires sustained investment in the infrastructure that supports our communities enables economic activity and improves the quality of everyday life during 2026 we continue to advance major infrastructure initiatives while strengthening the planning technical and institutional arrangements necessary for effective project execution in 2027 our focus will remain on translating these investments into tangible improvements in connectivity essential services energy security and national resilience ma'am speak of the continued transformation of the Clayton J Lloyd International Airport remains one of Anguilla's most significant strategic investments reflecting our commitment to strengthening connectivity expanding economic opportunities and positioning Anguilla for a sustainable long-term growth throughout 2026 major works progressed on the new passenger terminal and expanded aircraft apron laying the foundation for increased operational capacity more efficient passenger processing and an improved experience for residents and visitors alike in 2027 EC $110 million dollars has been allocated to advance the airport development project representing a substantial commitment to the continued modernisation and expansion of this critical national asset central to this next phase is the runway extension program which will advance our objective of developing a 7000 foot runway enhancing the airport's capacity to accommodate larger aircraft and create a new opportunities for expanded international air services

Madam Speaker these infrastructure investments are complemented by continued efforts to strengthen Anguilla's air connectivity and expand access to key international markets building on existing services from Boston, Newark and Baltimore we are pursuing further opportunities to diversify our airlift including connections involving Toronto via the Turks and Caicos Islands and Tampa Florida improved connectivity will not only enhance Anguilla's attractiveness as a premier tourism destination but also facilitate business travel encourage investment and create new opportunities across the wider economy the significance of this investment extends well beyond the airport itself greater accessibility has the potential to stimulate growth in tourism hospitality transportation construction and other supporting industries creating opportunities for Anguillian businesses workers and entrepreneurs as we advance this major national undertaking our emphasis will remain an effective project management coordinated implementation and ensuring that investments of this magnitude deliver lasting value for the people of Anguilla

Madam Speaker we are not simply expanding an airport or extending a runway we are strengthening Anguilla's connections to the world expanding the opportunities available to our people and building the infrastructure necessary to support our island's future prosperity Madam Speaker reliable roads are essential to the daily lives of all people they connect communities support commerce improve access to schools and essential services and contribute to the safety of all road users during 2026 we made important progress in strengthening our road infrastructure including the completion of the Sandy hill road and patients Gumbs road projects we also advanced the technical preparations for more comprehensive road rehabilitation program a project engineering management company was engaged to support the design and implementation of major road works including Austin Rogers road John Hodge road and Coronation Avenue importantly surveys and designs for 12 major roads across various communities have been completed providing a stronger foundation for the systematic implementation of future works the acquisition of government's chip and seal equipment represents another important step towards strengthening our domestic road maintenance and rehabilitation capacity together with the engagement of a dedicated project manager this investment will support a more efficient and cost-effective approach to improving our road network in 2027 the government has allocated 15 million towards road infrastructure development supplemented by the reappropriation of any unspent resources from the 2026 road program this continued investment will allow us to build on the technical and operational groundwork already established advancing priority road construction reconstruction and resurfacing projects while placing renewed emphasis on the rehabilitation of dirt roads across our communities and maintenance of existing infrastructure

Madam Speaker with the necessary engineering expertise project designs and equipment increasingly in place our focus in 2027 will be on accelerating implementation and ensuring that these investments translate into visible and lasting improvements across our road network our objective is not simply to construct roads but to establish a more sustainable

approach to managing and preserving this essential national asset we are building roads that connect our communities support economic opportunity and serve the people of Anguilla for generations to come

Madam Speaker the cost and reliability of electricity continue to have significant implications for households businesses and government operations advancing a more sustainable energy future is therefore both an environmental responsibility and an economic priority during 2026 we strengthened the policy and regulatory foundations for Anguilla's renewable energy transition through the adoption of key strategic instruments including the integrated resource and resilience plan the national energy policy and action plan and frameworks relating to great stability battery storage electricity tariffs and electric vehicle development these measures provide an important foundation for diversifying our energy supply improving system reliability and facilitating greater investment in renewable technologies crucially

Madam Speaker we have begun translating these policy commitments into practical investments at the Orealia Kelly primary school the installation of a 22.75 kilowatt solar photovoltaic system supported by battery storage and electric vehicle charging facilities represents an important milestone in the transition towards cleaner public infrastructure in 2027 a second phase is expected to add a further 31.85 kilowatts bringing the school's total solar generation capacity to 54.6 kilowatts and advanced in the objective of greater energy self-sufficiency at the Princess Alexandra Hospital implementation has commenced on a major renewable energy initiative designed to provide approximately 500 kilowatts of solar generation capacity supported by a battery energy storage system this investment is particularly significant because of the critical nature of healthcare services and the importance of ensuring reliable power to support uninterrupted patient care together these initiatives are expected to provide approximately 555 kilowatts of solar generation capacity across these public facilities once fully implemented in 2027 we will continue to advance public sector renewable energy investments and expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the island

Madam Speaker these investments represent practical steps towards reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels improving energy resilience and creating opportunities for long-term savings Madam Speaker digital transformation remains central to our vision of a modern efficient and competitive Anguilla during 2026 the ministry partnered with the united nations economic commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to advance the development of Anguilla's first national ICT strategy this strategy will provide a coordinated framework for strengthening digital infrastructure modernizing public services improving data resilience and supporting innovation across the economy our focus in 2027 will be on advancing this national framework and strengthening the technological foundations necessary for more accessible reliable and responsive services but

Madam Speaker technology must serve a practical purpose its value is measured not simply in the systems we introduce but in the improvements experienced by the people and businesses that depend on them that means reducing unnecessary administrative processes strengthening digital access improving communication between government departments and ensuring that our people are equipped to participate in an increasingly digital world these efforts together with our wider investments in infrastructure and energy demonstrate the importance of building with purpose planning carefully invest in strategically and ensuring that today's development contributes to a stronger and more resilient Anguilla tomorrow delivered for Anguilla means turning commitments into action and ensuring that the resources entrusted to this government produce meaningful results our people must be able to see and experience the benefits of the decisions we make whether through improved public services safer communities greater economic opportunities more reliable infrastructure or government that is responsive to their needs

Madam Speaker investing in the capabilities of all people must be matched by strengthening the institutions through which public services are delivered in 2027 we will continue to advance the public sector reform agenda 2025 to 2030 with emphasis on professional development institutional accountability and effective performance management a central initiative will be a public service competency framework setting clearer standards for the knowledge skills behaviors and leadership required across the public service it will strengthen recruitment professional development career progression and succession planning we will also link individual performance more clearly to departmental objectives and national priorities so that public officers understand how their contributions support government's commitments we will continue to modernise human resource policies and develop a new human resource management information system to improve workforce planning talent management and decision making

Madam Speaker these reforms are about more than administrative efficiency they are about building a professional accountable public service so that our people experience more timely decisions better access to services and stronger accountability for results because a modern public service must be judged not simply by the systems it operates but by the quality of the service it delivers to the people of Anguilla

Madam Speaker as we strengthen our economy and modernise our institutions we must also give careful attention to the constitutional framework within which our island is governed constitutional reform remains an important part of Anguilla's democratic development and our longstanding aspiration for greater self-determination during late 2026 the constitutional reform committee continued its deliberations and is now finalising its report for the executive council in 2027 we will carry out an extensive program of public education and consultation so that Anguillians can examine the proposals express their views and help shape the direction of reform

Madam Speaker constitutional reform is not an exercise for government legal professionals or committee alone it concerns the foundations of our democracy the relationship between the people and those who exercise authority on their behalf the accountability of public officials and the protection of rights and fundamentally it concerns the future we wish to create for ourselves these are not questions to be settled

without the voices of the people whose lives and futures will be affected and that is why the next phase must be inclusive accessible and informed our consultations must go beyond formal meetings and technical presentations making the issues understandable and given Anguillians across our communities including our young people the chance to contribute we want our people to understand what is proposed why it matters and what it could mean for Anguilla

Madam Speaker 2027 also marks 60 years since the Anguilla revolution of 1967 it is a time to reflect on those who stood for Anguilla's right to shape its own future and on the principle they established that the voice of the Anguillian people must matter in decisions about this island 60 years later that principle remains as relevant as ever but

Madam Speaker honouring that legacy also means engage in thoughtfully with the responsibilities of democratic governance greater self-determination must be supported by strong institutions clear accountability and effective administration our constitutional aspirations and our institutional development must therefore advance together as we consider the next chapter of Anguilla's constitutional development our objective must be a framework that reflects the aspirations of our people strengthens accountability protects their rights and provides a sound foundation for the future

Madam Speaker constitutional reform is not an undertaking for one administration alone it must be approached with seriousness inclusiveness and respect the government is committed to advancing that conversation and ensuring that Anguillians have a meaningful opportunity to help shape its outcome because the future of Anguilla must be informed first and foremost by the voices interests and aspirations of its people

Madam Speaker the 2027 budget reflects a significant moment in Anguilla's financial development the strength of our economy combined with the extraordinary performance of revenues associated with our dot ai domain has created opportunities to invest in our people and our infrastructure on a scale that will have been difficult to contemplate only a few years ago but as our financial capacity expands so too must the strength of the institutions and systems through which those resources are managed we must ensure that our decisions are guided by sound fiscal principles that public funds are protected that government meets its obligations and our investments deliver lasting value because the true test of financial stewardship is not simply how much money government collects it's how responsibly those resources are managed and what Anguilla has to show for them in 2027 we will advance an ambitious program of financial reform strengthening revenue administration public expenditure management financial accountability and the long-term sustainability of our public finances our objective is to build financial institutions that are capable of supporting Anguilla's development today while protecting our ability to respond to the challenges of tomorrow

Madam Speaker one of the most significant initiatives in our financial reform agenda is the establishment of a sovereign wealth fund for inguilum the remarkable growth in date ai domain revenues is an exceptional opportunity but these revenues are tied to a rapidly evolving global industry and the pace of technological change and the uncertainties of international markets require us to approach them with care an exceptional period of revenue growth must not become an assumption of permanent spending capacity that is why we are establishing the fund to preserve and invest a portion of today's financial benefits for the long-term benefit of Anguilla it will be a structured mechanism for managing savings withstanding economic and revenue shocks and ensuring that future generations share in this opportunity during 2026 the ministry of finance advanced technical work on the policy institutional and legislative framework for the fund with international and regional partners in 2027 we will continue developing the governance investment and operational arrangements including investment policies independent oversight risk management auditing and transparent financial reporting and integrate the fund into governments wider fiscal framework the medium term fiscal framework includes provisional arrangements subject to the necessary policy legislative and financial approvals

Madam Speaker the fund must be built on strong foundations a clearly defined purpose prudent management and arrangements that protect the long-term interests of the people of Anguilla future generations should not look back and wonder how we experience such an extraordinary financial opportunity without securing something lasting from it we are not establishing a fund to simply create another source of money for government to spend we are establishing a framework to ensure that some of today's prosperity is preserved for tomorrow we intend to make the choices today that will place Anguilla in a stronger financial position tomorrow ma'am speak of the responsible financial management also requires government to confront its existing obligations as we make provision for new investments we must be equally attentive to outstanding liabilities statutory arrays land acquisition compensation and other financial commitments that require resolution over the years several financial and contractual matters have remained outstanding some extending across successive administrations these matters must be approached carefully with proper consideration of the legal basis the amounts claimed the public interest and the financial implications for government but

Madam Speaker there is a principle that should never be lost in these discussions a change of administration does not extinguish the lawful obligations of government where a liability has been properly established it must be addressed an unpaid obligation does not become a saving simply because payment has been postponed during 2026 we continued work to address longstanding financial matters including obligations involving Anglec and ASSIDCO these were two of the government's largest recorded arrays in 2027 we will continue this effort in a deliberate and structured manner

Madam Speaker we will also strengthen our processes for identifying recording and monitoring outstanding commitments so that they are properly reflected in government's financial planning there is little value in celebrating a strong financial position while leaving legitimate obligations unresolved and there is certainly no fiscal virtue in passing an unpaid bill from one budget to the next and hoping that it becomes somebody

else's problem responsible stewardship requires us to deal with these matters we intend to do so carefully lawfully and transparently our objective is to improve the integrity of government's financial position and strengthen confidence in the way public obligations are managed

Madam Speaker the financial responsibilities of government extend beyond ministries and departments our statutory bodies deliver essential services and manage significant resources with real implications for Anguilla's economic development and physical stability during 2026 the ministry of finance strengthened its oversight of these bodies through closer examination of their budgets financial statements quarterly reports and performance we looked harder at the credibility of their projections the sustainability of their spending their cash resources and the risks they may pose to government in 2027 we will deepen this work with a fiscal health check tool giving us a more structured view of each body's financial performance liquidity solvency and sustainability it will help us spot vulnerabilities early and decide where closer monitoring is needed these assessments will also inform our decisions and their budgets requests for government support and potential fiscal exposures

Madam Speaker we intend to go beyond reviewing financial information to challenging the assumptions behind it and to link the resources these bodies receive to the services and results they are expected to deliver they must have the capacity to fulfill their mandates but institutional autonomy does not remove the obligation to account for public resources our objective is to strengthen accountability identify financial risk before they become significant liabilities and ensure that the institutions establish to serve and grow remain financially sustainable and deliver value to our people

Madam Speaker sound fiscal policy must also respond to the circumstances facing our households and businesses because Anguilla depends on imported goods movements in international prices and freight costs put real pressure on the cost of living and doing business during 2026 government continue to provide relief including the removal of certain taxes and fuel and the exclusion of freight costs from the calculation of customs duties to ease import related costs for households and businesses

Madam Speaker we have also continued to support investment through targeted customs duty concessions these have helped initiatives in agriculture manufacturing transportation local business development sports and community activities and have helped businesses acquire the equipment and materials they need to grow but Madam Speaker there must be clarity and consistency in how fiscal concessions are administered a concession represents revenue that government has chosen not to collect it must therefore be supported by a clear and justifiable public purpose during 2026 we advanced the review of the customs duty exemption policy along with proposals for goods tax exemptions and the local business investment policy in 2027 we will advance these reforms to create more transparent consistent and effective incentive arrangements giving businesses and investors greater certainty and strengthen accountability in how concessions are granted

Madam Speaker we want fiscal incentives that encourage genuine investment support and grilling enterprise and produce measurable benefits while protecting the revenues required to fund essential public services that is the balance responsible fiscal policy must achieve Madam Speaker as Anguilla's economy evolves our revenue administration systems must keep pace with the demands placed on them in 2027 the Inland Revenue Department will continue its transformation to greater use of digital technology data-driven compliance and better taxpayer services we will make tax administration more accessible strengthen the management of arrays and keep improving the legislative and administrative arrangements that support fairness transparency and effective collection

Madam Speaker revenue administration must never be reduced to the pursuit of collections alone a modern tax system must also earn the confidence of those who contribute to it people and businesses should have clear information efficient services and fair treatment at the same time government must ensure that obligations are met so that noncompliance does not place an unfair burden on those who fulfill their responsibilities our approach is to make complaints easier strengthen fairness and ensure that the revenues required for Anguilla's development are collected efficiently and responsibly

Madam Speaker the Anguilla Customs Department plays an important role not only in revenue collection but also in facilitating commerce and supporting the security of our borders during 2026 Customs advanced recruitment to strengthen operational capacity continued improvements to its canine detection program and relaunched the sil clay platform cellclare supports advanced notification and processing arrangements for arriving vessels helping to facilitate legitimate maritime traffic while improving operational planning and compliance in 2027 the Department will continue modernising customs through enhancements ASSICUDA and the introduction of a more efficient processing arrangements a key target is the implementation of simplified declaration procedures by 31st march 2027 particularly for goods processed through the Post Office this initiative is intended to reduce processing times and unnecessary administrative burdens for individuals and businesses further investment in specialist training will strengthen customs officers capabilities in areas such as investigations intelligence enforcement risk management and post-clearance audit

Madam Speaker a modern Customs Administration must be capable of protecting public revenue while facilitating legitimate trade efficiently for businesses delays in processing goods can affect costs operations and competitiveness for households efficient customs procedures can make a meaningful difference to the experience of importing essential goods we want a Customs service that is firm in enforcement efficient in processing and responsive to the people and businesses it serves

Madam Speaker one of the clearest demonstrations of effective public financial management is government's ability to meet its obligations promptly and reliably this matters to public officers who depend on their salaries pensioners who rely on monthly payments and the businesses and contractors

that serve government during 2026 the Treasury Department strengthened the reliability of government's financial operations processing a substantial volume of payments and increasing the use of electronic payments in place of manual checks in 2027 we will accelerate this by expanding electronic payments and moving governments financial management systems to a cloud-based platform giving us stronger controls better reporting and more effective cash flow management

Madam Speaker we are also setting an important objective for Treasury to move towards a standard turnaround of 24 hours for payments once invoices have been properly verified approved and submitted for disbursement achieving this will take efficiency across the whole payment process not just within Treasury ministries and departments must make sure invoices are properly certified approvals are obtained and payment instructions are submitted promptly and we must keep strengthening the controls that protect public funds speed and accountability are not competing objectives government must be capable of delivering both

Madam Speaker a business that has delivered goods or completed work for government should be able to expect timely payment under its contract delay strain cash flow particularly for small enterprises so this is just not an administrative reform it strengthens the relationship between government and the businesses that help deliver public services our objective is a Treasury that is efficient reliable secure and accountable ma'am speak of the scale of Anguilla's capital investment program places increased responsibility on government to manage public procurement effectively every major investment requires proper planning sound technical preparation clear specifications transparent procurement and effective contract management and a poorly prepared project is more likely to run into difficulties during implementation that is why in 2027 the Ministry of Finance will continue reforms to strengthen the public procurement framework and the professional capacity of those who administer it this includes legislative and policy improvements stronger procurement procedures and training and greater emphasis on procurement planning contract management and compliance with financial and legal requirements

Madam Speaker this work is closely connected to a broader reform that is already shaping our approach to capital budgeting we are moving towards a system in which the readiness of a project plays a more important role in determining when substantial construction funding is committed that means ensuring that feasibility assessments designs land arrangements approvals and procurement preparations are completed at the appropriate stage reducing avoidable delays and aligning major allocations with projects that are genuinely ready to proceed

Madam Speaker a large capital allocation is not by itself evidence of successful development what matters is the infrastructure and services that allocation ultimately produces we therefore intend to strengthen the connection between project planning budgeting procurement implementation and accountability this approach will help government improve execution reduce avoidable inefficiencies and deliver greater value from its investments

Madam Speakers strengthen Anguilla's public financial management framework remains a central priority of this administration particularly at the scale and complexity of government's financial operations continue to grow during 2026 work continued under modernisation of the financial administration and audit act while the process has taken longer than it originally anticipated we expect to bring forward the updated legislative framework during the first quarter of 2027 the proposed reforms will strengthen the accountability of accounting officers improve financial governance across ministries departments and statutory bodies and modernise the arrangements governing their commitment management and reporting of public expenditure the updated framework will also address provisions relating to budget reallocations supplementary appropriations and expenditure authorisations providing greater clarity around financial responsibilities and a statutory procedures governing public expenditure

Madam Speaker financial accountability must begin when decisions are made to commit public funds not simply when expenditure is reported after the fact our reform agenda will therefore extend beyond legislative amendments to strengthen the supporting financial regulations procedures and institutional capabilities necessary for effective implementation in 2027 we were also undertake a structured self-assessment of Anguilla's public financial management systems drawing upon internationally recognised standards including the public expenditure and financial accountability PIFA framework this exercise will examine key areas including budget credibility expenditure controls public investment management financial reporting internal audit and external oversight the findings will inform the development of a prioritised public financial management reform action plan identifying existing weaknesses the measures required to address them and clear responsibilities and timelines for implementation this preparatory work will position Anguilla to undertake a formal PIFA assessment in 2028 or 2029 allowing us to identify and begin addressing institutional and procedural gaps ahead of that exercise

Madam Speaker our objective is not simply to modernise the legislation governing public finances but to strengthen the discipline transparency and accountability with which public resources are managed as the resources entrusted to government increased so too must the strength of the institutions and systems responsible for safeguarding them Madam Speaker the budget remains firmly anchored in the principles of the Fiscal Responsibility Act ensuring that every dollar spent is matched by discipline foresight and measurable results last year we presented the first budget crafted entirely under this administration this 2027 budget builds on that foundation it carries forward the same discipline and inclusive approach keeps us aligned with our national development goals and continues to be shaped by the voice of the people through the citizen survey

Madam Speaker prudence and progress are not opposing forces in this budget this stands side by side we will guard the strength of our public finances with discipline and we will invest with conviction in what our people need most water in every home care in every clinic opportunity in every classroom safety in every community and infrastructure to carry Anguilla forward last year we set the course this year we deliver plans

become projects allocations become outcomes and commitments become real change in the lives of our people for fiscal year 2027 total revenue is projected at approximately EC $702.5 million dollars this is 17.8 per cent above the 2026 approved estimate of EC $596.4 million and broadly in line with the 2026 projected outturn of EC $716.8 million all this revenue is recurring no grant inflows are budgeted for 2027 tax revenue remains a cornerstone of our fiscal framework with collections forecast at EC $297.3 million taxes on goods and services are estimated EC $192.1 million this is 4.4 per cent above the 2026 estimate but 3.9 per cent below the 2026 projected outturn of EC $199.9 million dollars taxes on international trade and transactions are projected at EC $62.6 million an increase of about 4 per cent reflecting steady import activity payroll and workforce taxes through the universal social levy a forecast at EC $27.3 million consistent with stable employment levels property taxes are expected to yield EC $8 million and taxes on income through the bank deposit levy of further EC $7.3 million dollars non-tax revenue is projected at EC $405.1 million sales of goods and services remain the largest contributor at EC $398.2 million within this revenue from the dot ai domain is estimated at EC $361.9 million dollars the domain continues to perform as a key national asset and it now accounts for just over half of all government revenue that is exactly why we are treating it with care and why a portion of these earnings is being set aside for the future through the sovereign wealth fund property income fines and penalties and transfers are projected at approximately EC $7 million collectively

Madam Speaker turning to expenditure total recurrent expenditure for 2027 is estimated at approximately EC $445.7 million compared to the 2026 approved estimate of EC $397.8 million these allocations are directed toward delivering essential services and implementing the government's development priorities personally moluments projected at EC $206.1 million reflect our continued investment in the provision of public services goods and services estimated at EC $142.8 million covered the operating and maintenance costs that keep services running infrastructure maintained and programs on track across ministries and departments retiring benefits are projected at approximately EC $23.7 million interest payments are estimated at EC $9.6 million down from a projected EC $10.3 million in 2026 current transfers of approximately of approximately EC $63.5 million include EC $36.2 million in grants and contributions to statutory bodies and regional institutions and EC $27.3 million for social services

Madam Speaker in summary capital expenditure for 2027 is projected at EC $213.2 million dollars the full program is funded from our own resources no grant financing is assumed I want to take a few moments to show the house where the money is going six projects account for close to 90 per cent of the program the airport which alone accounts for EC $110 million office accommodation road development health services zenada haven and water the balance of about EC $27 million goes to schools and curriculum development sports facility development child protection digital government CCTV sustainable energy and national development planning in the medium term as the airport moves towards completion more space opens for water schools health and community projects including the new primary school blocks and a stronger investment in health facilities in 2029

Madam Speaker discipline is what gives this budget its credibility it allows us to pursue our development priorities with confidence knowing that our public finances will remain sound stability is not secured by holding back it is secured by investing with purpose using today's resources wisely so that tomorrow's growth is secure and every dollar we spend strengthens the Anguilla of tomorrow the 2027 budget projects a current account surplus of EC $256.8 million which will fund our capital program and support debt management and contributions to the sovereign wealth fund after capital spending the overall balance before debt repayment is a surplus of EC $43.6 million dollars total amortisation is estimated at EC $39.9 million after amortisation the overall balance is projected at a small surplus of EC $3.7 million compared with the deficit of the EC $73.2 million budgeted for 2026 in addition government intends to make an indicative transfer of approximately EC $72.4 million to the sovereign wealth fund supported by a planned drawdown of EC $66 million from existing financial assets this means that part of today's strong revenue performance is being saved for future generations rather than spent the ministry of finance has been allocated EC $130.6 million in the 2027 budget made up of EC $127.6 million in recurrent expenditure and EC $3 million in capital expenditure the recurrent allocation is 28.6 per cent of the recurrent budget and 8.1 per cent decrease from 2026 the decrease is mainly because of a change in how the budget is held in 2026 EC $40.7 million was kept centrally in the ministry as restricted expenditure primarily related to centrally held funds for possible salary adjustments following the public sector compensation review for 2027 that contingency provision falls to EC $7.9 million and the cost of the adjustments now sits in the personal emoluments of each ministry and department retiring benefits which are managed by the treasury rise by EC $5.8 million to EC $23.7 million and government

Social Security contributions rise by EC $2.1 million to EC $7.5 million dollars both reflect a larger and better paid public service this also reflects scheduled increase in Social Security contributions as well as planned increases in contributions to the public service pension fund to improve its long-term sustainability Madam Speaker a provision of EC $5.5 million is made within the Ministry for public assistance in 2027 this represents the continuation of the fuel surcharge subsidy program which has provided financial support to households and businesses facing the impact of higher fuel related costs but

Madam Speaker continue in a program does not mean repeating it unchanged support of this kind is most effective when it reaches the households that need it most and the new round in 2027 will be designed to be more targeted than the last this approach allows government to make the best use of limited public resources to provide more meaningful support where it is needed and to maintain the fiscal discipline that I have spoken about throughout this address it also helps ensure that assistance remains sustainable and can support those who need it the most

Madam Speaker being targeted does not mean being less compassionate it means being deliberate ensuring that every

dollar of public assistance reaches the household it was intended to help Madam Speaker new spending of approximately EC $732,000 has been provided for immigration including six additional officers to strengthen operations at the Blowing Point for a terminal and seven positions to support advanced passenger screening and electronic travel authorisation under the new border management system within the ministry's capital allocation EC $2.5 million is provided to continue the acquisition and development of Anguilla's office accommodation in the United Kingdom a further EC $500,000 is provided for the furniture and equipment government departments need to keep operating

Madam Speaker the ministry of social development and education has been allocated EC $111.63 million in the 2027 budget comprising approximately EC $90.73 million dollars in recurrent expenditure and EC $20.9 million in capital expenditure these allocation underscores the government's continued commitment to education social protection youth development rehabilitation culture and the wellbeing of our communities within the recurrent allocation provision has been made for approximately EC $3.35 million in approved new spending initiatives strengthening the ministry's capacity to deliver services and advance its policy priorities these include additional specialised support within our education system investment in technical and vocational training increased professional capacity within social development and gender affairs enhanced youth development programs and further support for cultural and community initiatives the capital allocation will support continued investment in the educational sporting and social infrastructure necessary to improve service delivery and strengthen opportunities for our people key areas of capital expenditure include EC $11.5 million towards the continued construction of zineda haven a purpose built residential facility to strengthen the care protection and rehabilitation of vulnerable young people EC $2.9 million towards the development of a sports hub at the Albena Lake Hodge Comprehensive School to support sporting activities physical education and youth development EC $2.5 million towards energy efficiency and air quality improvements in schools including solar energy solutions improved ventilation and pilot initiatives EC $2.35 million towards educational infrastructure and modernization including digital learning systems minor school improvements WISE workshop enhancements Campus B development and preparatory work for new blocks at Valley Primary and Orelia Kelly Primary Schools EC $1.25 million towards the development of a community center and green space to strengthen community engagement recreation and social wellbeingEC $0.4 million towards improvements in child protection and rehabilitation services including preparatory work for the place of safety and the offender electronic monitoring system

Madam Speaker, these allocations reflect a deliberate commitment to strengthening both the facilities and the human capacity needed to deliver effective public services our expectation is clear that these investments translate into improved educational outcomes more accessible social services stronger communities and meaningful opportunities for the people of Anguilla the Ministry of Infrastructure has been allocated EC $203.8 million in the 2027 budget the largest of any ministry made up of EC $40.5 million in recurrent expenditure and EC $163.3 million in capital expenditure the recurrent allocation is 9.1 per cent of the recurrent budget at 21.1 per cent increase over 2026 provision has been made for $350,000 EC dollars in continuous cybersecurity monitoring alongside additional it and digital transformation personnel to strengthen government's technological capabilities a further EC $446,000 will support additional government office accommodation requirements across key departments

Madam Speaker this ministry carries 77 per cent of the 2027 capital program EC $110 million towards the ongoing Clayton J Lloyd International Airport development this is the single largest investment in the program covering continued runway and apron works a further EC $92 million is planned for 2028 and EC $26 million for 2029 as the project moves to completion EC $29.9 million towards government office accommodation this funds the retrofit of temporary space for displaced departments the demolition of obsolete buildings and the start of phase construction of new government office space EC $15 million towards road development program where priorities include completing Albert Lake Drive and Rafael T Lake drive Albert Lake Drive to Campus Q access to the Zenaida Haven site at longpath chip and seal works in Rock Farm resurfacing from Mary's Bakery to Campus Q and Albert Lake Drive to Proctor's Supermarket major roadworks will come with sidewalks provision for utilities and street lighting and the works will be coordinated with the water pipeline program so that new road surfaces are not dug up again point EC $0.55 million towards port development for the assessment and phased repair of government walls at cove bay Island Harbour and the marine based jetty and forest bay

Madam Speaker the big projects will drive growth but these people focused investments are the true measure of our development they improve daily lives strengthen communities and make sure growth is shared the ministry of economic development has been allocated EC $42.4 million in the 2027 budget made up of EC $32.5 million in recurrent expenditure and EC $9.8 million in capital expenditure the recurrent allocation is 7.3 per cent of the recurrent budget or a 16.7 per cent increase over 2026 the budget provides an additional EC $180,000 to strengthen the Anguilla chamber of commerce and industry support for local businesses together with EC $50,000 dollars in additional funding for the MSC pro grow grant program to support small business development and entrepreneurship

Madam Speaker the ministry's capital allocation includes EC $8 million for water development to fund phase 1 of the pipeline replacement network along the Jeremiah Gumbs highway and in the Long Path new pipelines alongside the road program upgrade to the brackish water plant and to plan for the decentralised east and west water production facility the ministry of health tourism and sports has been allocated EC $105.7 million in the 2027 budget made up of EC $89.7 million in recurrent expenditure and EC $16 million in capital expenditure the recurrent allocations is 20.1 per cent of the recurrent budget a 23.1 per cent increase over 2026

Madam Speaker new recurring spending of approximately EC $1.81 million has been provided for the department of health services supporting additional nursing medical and specialist

personnel to strengthen intensive care dialysis surgical services and community healthcare Madam Speaker within the ministry's capital allocation EC $12 million is provided for health services development covering completion of the expansion of the central sterilisation department the purchase of diagnostic and clinical equipment including the new MRI and ICU equipment facility upgrades and early preparatory planning for a new hospital EC $4 million goes to sports development to complete the Blowing Point basketball court site preparation and surveys for the track and field facility upgrades at coronation park and stony ground playing field and master planning and design work for the redevelopment of Ronald Webster park the governor's portfolio which includes Public Administration, His Majesty's Prison, The House of Assembly, Disaster Management the Financial Intelligence Unit the Royal and Anguilla Police Force the Courts and the Attorney General's Chambers has been allocated EC $64.7 million in the 2027 budget this is made up of EC $64.6 million in recurrent expenditure and EC $100,000 in capital expenditure the recurrent allocation is 14.5 per cent of the recurrent budget a 27.7 per cent increase over 2026

Madam Speaker the capital allocation of 100000 for his majesty's prison will complete the virtual courtroom facility and begin design work for a nurses station and visitors room Madam Speaker as I bring this budget address to a close let me speak plainly about the responsibility that rests upon this administration when the people of Anguilla entrusted us with leadership in 2025 they placed their confidence in our ability to make decisions confront challenges and improve their lives we accepted that responsibility and

Madam Speaker we intend to honor it we have presented a budget of considerable ambition considerable ambition investments in our schools healthcare facilities roads water infrastructure and the development of all people and a program to strengthen our economy and safeguard the resources entrusted to government but funding alone is not delivery projects must be properly planned designs completed procurement timely and implementation monitored and the institutions responsible must be held accountable the responsibility of government does not end when funding is approved it ends when the investment has delivered the benefit for which it was intended a road that is repaired a water system that works more reliably a school that provides a better learning environment a healthcare service that meets the needs of all people a young Anguillian who acquires a qualification secures employment or builds a successful business these are the outcomes that matter and this is what we must deliver we have already taken important steps honoring the public service compensation review advancing major investment in our airport strengthening the services available to our people and improving our fiscal position in 2027 we will build on that progress with even greater emphasis on execution because

Madam Speaker there can be no greater demonstration of respect for the people we serve than a government that does what it says it will do this is the commitment that stands behind our 2027 budget theme investing in people ensuring that our economic progress creates opportunities strengthens families and improves the lives of Anguillians building with purpose making deliberate decisions preparing properly and investing in what our island needs delivering for Anguilla turning those decisions into action and ensuring that our commitments produce results we will invest in our people we will build with purpose and we will deliver for Anguilla

Madam Speaker I commend the 2027 budget to this Honourable House I beg to move thank you

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

thank you Honourable Premier at this stage the debate on the Bill will be adjourned to Monday the 12th November at 16th November at 9:00 am

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

so I invite the Honourable Premier to move the motion that this House stands adjourned

Hon.Premier Cora Richardson Hodge:

Thank you Madam Speaker I beg to move that this Honourable House stands adjourned until Monday 16th November 2026 Thursday 12th November at 9:00 am at 10:00 am thank you Madam Speaker

Hon.Tara Carter (Speaker of the House):

and do I have a seconder? Honourable Members it has been moved and seconded that this Honourable House stands adjourned to Thursday November 12th at 10''00 am however to avoid any confusion the continuation of the debate will be Monday November 16th Thursday will be for the scheduling of other business you're all invited to attend as always and thank you for your diligence thank you to the Honourable Premier for taking us through and we look forward to our subsequent sittings this House stands adjourned