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Large number witness signing of Anguilla Tennis Academy land agreement

ANGUILLA—The official signing of the agreement between the Government of Anguilla and the Anguilla Tennis Academy (ATA) took place on Tuesday July 22 and was attended by a large number of persons. All the speakers praised the work and dedication of Mitchell Lake who founded the ATA and has been the leading force pursuing the establishment of the tennis facility to be built on the land at Blowing Point.

The signing of the land agreement is the first step to the construction of a tennis facility that will have six lighted tennis courts, a stadium court, a main building with shower, a pro shop, offices and other rooms and facilities.

The event was chaired by treasurer of the ATA, Brent Davis who spoke of the day as very important for Anguilla and a testament to the futuristic thinking of Anguillians and the Anguilla spirit revived by Mitchell Lake.

Deputy Governor, Mark Capes, said that sport plays a significant part in the development of individuals, builds character and personality and is enjoyed all over the world by rich and poor, all religions and peoples. He spoke of Lake as being very special and that the event was happening because of his leadership and determination. He thanked Mitch and the Government of Anguilla and said that there is still a long road ahead to give Anguilla a world class tennis facility.

Minister of Sport, Eric Reid noted that he is pleased to sign the agreement and that his Government supports sport and will give full support to the project because they realize it is worthwhile for the children and people of Anguilla. His words of support were backed up by Victor Banks, Minister of Finance, who also spoke of the tenacity, focus and determination of Lake and the Board of the ATA. He observed that it is a project of which all Anguillians can be proud and that it has economic potential as sports tourism is becoming very important.

Mitchell Lake thanked the Government of Anguilla for the agreement of six acres of land, he also thanked all the many sponsors and supporters, friends and local businesses that have supported the ATA over the past seven years. He noted that the courts will be built to international standards and the stadium court will give the opportunity for regional and international matches. He said much fund raising needs to be achieved and he is looking for support.

“I will not stop until this facility is finished and a sustainable programme put in place. I ask for your help. This is not a Government project or a Mitchell Lake project it is a project of the people. Let’s make this project a reality,” Lake stressed.

Other speakers at the event were Permanent Secretary Marcel Fahie, and Leslie Richardson, secretary of the ATA who gave the vote of thanks. Austin Connor gave the opening prayer and a group of young persons from Youth in Harmony and children of the ATA sang “Yes we can”. Several government personnel were in attendance along with parents and children from the tennis camp, coaches and

children from the USA and many persons from the Blowing Point community and the wider community.