

# Public Evaluation

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2014



## Public Evaluations

The People's Campaign will seek to assess the Government and the Opposition through public evaluations. Public evaluation will allow the People's Campaign to evaluate how effective those who sit in the House of Parliament are in addressing the issues raised by the people. In the Month of May we reviewed legislation, Ministerial statements, Opposition statements, articles in the media and public reports. We examined them with an aim to produce a summary of our elected officials' activities. This process will be used by the People's Campaign to keep the people of Bermuda conscious to the decisions that are being made and how they are aligned with the people's expectations.

## Did You Know ?

- Jobs filled are at the lowest level recorded since 1995.
- The level of Bermudian jobs decreased in 14 out of the 15 industries in 2013.
- 18 companies in the International Business Sector reported \$11.7 billion in profit while 110 jobs were lost in that sector in 2013
- The April rate of inflation was 1.9 per cent led by the health and personal care sector [CPI - April 2014](#)
- Retail Sales for March declined 2.3 per cent [RSI - March 2014](#)
- Moody's Investor Services and Fitch Rating both downgraded Bermuda Government's credit rating.

## Lister calls on colleagues to get back to the People's Business



"While Jetgate took center stage, the bank policies, promised to be addressed by the Finance Minister, continue to see people losing their homes and no adjustment to interest rates.

To make matters worse, Capital G is sold and the new owners inform staff that their mortgage interest rate will increase significantly and we have seen a surreal response of the very same Minister on television explaining why this is necessary!

Today- immediately- the country must see the people's business taking front and center. I have been attempting to push the Government into action on a number of fronts since last year. I will continue to do this as a third way and a third voice. In my view, Country first is the only approach that is of any value at this point in time.

We must address jobs, interest rates, home losses, education funding and health care costs. These are the issues that the people of Bermuda want addressed and, using my third voice, I will continue to push the Government in each of these areas."

INDEPENDENT MP Terry Lister

## Legislation

During the month of May, there was no significant legislation tabled or debated that was directly in line with the expectation set out in the People's manifesto.

PLP Senator Diallo Rabain noted government's lack of productivity and stated, "**The Opposition Senate Team find it abysmal that the OBA government presented no legislation to the Senate. The last time the Senate met was March 26, and now we are adjourned until June 2014.**"

The People's Campaign identified the following items listed on the House of Assembly's **Orders of the Day** for May which include motions that we feel are in alignment with the Peoples' expectations:-

- **Notices of Motions by Hon. Walton Brown** - *"That this Honourable House take note of the historic losses in Bermuda of citizens' property through theft of property, dis-possession of property and adverse possession claims; and be it resolved that this Honourable House calls on His Excellency the Governor to establish a Commission of Inquiry into all such known claims and to determine, where possible, the viability of any such claims and make recommendations for any victims of wrongful action to receive compensation and justice."*
- **Motion to be moved by Mr. N. H. C. Simons** - *"That this Honourable House approves the Report of the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Parliamentary Governance and Reform together with the appendices tabled 5th March, 2014."* [Parliamentary Reform](#)
- **Motion to be moved by Hon. Z. J. DeSilva** - *"That this Honourable House take note of the escalation of healthcare and insurance costs and the need to ensure that accessible and affordable healthcare is available for every member of our community."*
- **Motion to be moved by Hon. D. P. Lister** - *"That pursuant to Part IV of the Parliament Act 1957, BE IT RESOLVED that given Bermuda's colonial status, a Select Committee of the House be appointed with a mandate to examine and review the viability of the decolonisation of Bermuda, and report to this Honourable House on its findings and recommendations."*
- **Motion to be moved by Mr. C. W. Brown** - *That this Honourable House accepts the recommendations cited in the Select Committee Report on Elections together with the Goudie Opinion."* [Election Committee](#)

## MP's Quotes



"When people lose faith in the Government and those who are supposed to be leaders of this country, human rights are put at risk. What we do not want, and simply cannot have is for the streets to become an alternative to viable economic and social solutions for Bermuda.

Our political polarization, both internally and externally is undermining us, as Parliamentarians, to effectively serve the people of this Country. And if we don't start addressing the needs of the people of this country in a very real and genuine way, we are going to see even more organized protests, such as the recent People's Manifesto, organized by Reverend Tweed, from Somerset to St Georges."

OBA MP Leah Scott

## Public Statements

### Shadow Minister Lovitta Foggo Holds "Silent Sit-In" Over OBA's Slashing of Financial Needs-Based Education Awards (Equality)

May 6th, 2014

With the passing of the 2014/2015 Budget, funding for financial needs-based education awards was cut from \$740,000 to \$40,000.

This runs contrary to OBA's election campaign platform which stated, "***We believe that the quality of a child's education should not be determined by their parent's income.***" [OBA Platform](#)

The People's Campaign supports the full restoration of these funds. Ensuring Bermudian access to higher education is vital and must be a priority of any government. We commend the Shadow Minister Lovitta Foggo for her efforts in relation to this important issue.

### Minister of Home Affairs Michael Fahy Highlights Employment Initiatives (Jobs)

May 8th, 2014

The People's Campaign applauds the Minister for highlighting initiatives within his Ministry that will assist with getting Bermudians back to work. He noted that close to 400 Bermudians were engaged in various training programs ranging from construction to accounting. He further articulated that he is committed to upholding and protecting the rights of those currently in the workforce.

The People's Campaign encourage Bermudians to review these training initiatives with an aim of taking advantage to the opportunities that exist. [NTB Annual Report](#)

In addition, Part 1 of the National Training Plan was released which focused on specific sectors of our economy with the aim to better

understanding Bermuda's short, medium and long-term labour needs. [National Training Plan Part 1](#)

### Labour Market Indicators (LMI) for 2014 Released (Jobs)

May 19th, 2014

This is an important indicator which shows Bermuda where the demand for employment exists. We encourage Bermudians to review this very important document as it highlights key areas for job opportunities.

[2014 LMI](#)

### Prosecutor Opts Not to Prosecute Visitor for Cannabis Possession (Justice)

May 22nd, 2014

After being warned by Magistrate Archie Warner that to prosecute this case would "*occasion a serious charge to the public purse,*" the Crown decided not to proceed.

We view that this as an injustice to all Bermudians who have been found in possession of similar quantities and have been prosecuted.

### Bermuda Tourism Authority's Scholarship Deadlines (Education)

May 23rd, 2014

RCL Hospitality and Tourism Studies Scholarships awarded on merit to students in communities where Royal Caribbean Cruises operates (\$20,000) deadline: June 20.

Skål Bermuda Scholarships for Hospitality and Tourism Studies (\$5,000 each year) deadline: July 15.

### Minister of Education and Economic Development, Dr. Grant Gibbons, Considers Student Loans Scheme (Equality)

May 27th, 2014

The People's Campaign implore that the Government make it a priority to make this a reality as no Bermudian should be denied access to higher education due to lack of funding.

### Shadow Minister of Labour Relations & Seniors, Derrick Burgess, Demands Better Care for Seniors (Equality)

May 28th, 2014

MP Burgess stated, "***I believe that Bermuda needs a Charter of Rights for the elderly—especially the elderly in need of care, and we the PLP will introduce such a Charter. We believe that the standard of care in some of our rest/nursing homes should be reviewed by an independent body and at the same time the Residential Care Homes and Nursing Homes Act 2001 should be a requirement that is closely monitored by Government.***" MP Burgess also noted that the cost of care can range between \$5,000 and \$11,00 per month and this often does not include extra charges. This, he believed, should be regulated.

MP Burgess' position is closely aligned with the People's Campaign's belief that Bermudians should have access to affordable, quality healthcare.

### Minister of Public Works, Patricia Gordon-Pamplin, Makes Ministerial Statement about Grand Atlantic (Justice)

May 18th, 2014

MP Gordon-Pamplin announced that government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a foreign consultancy firm, *MacLellan & Associates*, to transfer the Grand Atlantic Development into a tourism entity.

This follows the revelation on March 11th, 2013 by Hon. R. Wayne Scott, JP, MP Minister of Community, Culture and Sports, that sales of the remaining units to Bermudians has been suspended while a request for information (RFI) would be sought from investors.

This contravenes the People's Campaign view that government should protect the peoples' assets.

[Ministerial Statement: Grand Atlantic](#)

# The People's Manifesto

## **EQUALITY**

Every Bermudian should have the opportunity for post secondary education and should not be prevented from attaining education due to lack of funding.

The Government must implement an equitable taxation system that would structure taxation based upon levels of total income and the value of assets and holdings.

Quality healthcare must be accessible and affordable to all.

All Bermudians must have equal treatment under the law: the criminal justice system and the civil legal system must be accessible irrespective of financial well-being and must be administered at all levels in a manner that truly demonstrates that justice is blind.

## **JOBS**

Every person should be entitled to a livable wage in proportion to the cost of living. That is to say, a wage that permits its citizens to meet primary needs of food, shelter, clothing, healthcare and from a primary source of employment.

Full employment for Bermudians must be a national priority.

The Government must hold all employers accountable so that all workers will be respected and afforded the same standards and working conditions.

All workers must have the right to join Unions or form associations to defend their rights.

## **IUSTICE**

The Government must implement a program specifically designed to provide true economic opportunities for persons who historically have been prevented access.

The Government must establish regulatory constraints over the market to ensure that the business community share the sacrifices and participate in practices that serve the common good recognizing that the economy must serve the people and not the other way around.

Equal rights must be the same for ALL citizens in Bermuda, as such age cannot be a barrier for access to services, capital, and employment.

The Government does not own public property but holds it in trust on behalf of the people and therefore should exercise proper stewardship that protects the assets of the people against privatization.

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