

IMPORTANT FACTS

REMOVING THE MYTHS

❖ There are over 6,000 residents who would be directly impacted by granting PRC status:-

- 1,878 PRC holders ,
- 1,200 spouses of PRC holders, and
- 2,960 children of PRC holders

❖ Granting PRC holders status will allow these persons to compete directly with Bermudians for employment. Currently employment legislation stipulates a hiring hierarchy:-

FIRST: Bermudians
SECOND: Spouses of Bermudians
THIRDLY: PRC holders

❖ According to the 2013 Labour Force Survey:-

- PRC median income - \$81,601
- Bermudian median income - \$58,640
- PRC unemployment rate - 2%
- Bermudian unemployment income - 7%

❖ An issue as critical as the granting of status must NOT occur via a loophole as it violates the original intent and spirit of the PRC legislation

❖ The OBA refuse to close the loophole in a covert way

❖ Pre-election, OBA denied they would allow PRC holders to gain status. Last July MPs Trevor Moniz and Dr. Grant Gibbons both denied that the OBA would allow PRCs to gain Status in the HOA. Another broken promise which further erodes belief that OBA can be trusted

❖ OBA has allowed at least 155 applications to be processed for naturalization (first step towards status for non-British PRC holders)

❖ Dramatically increasing our electorate base has far-reaching impact not the least of which is the unbalancing of current electoral boundaries. A change of this magnitude would require a complete overhaul of our constituencies

❖ Many jurisdictions grant residents the right to purchase land and the right to work without also extending the right to vote e.g. persons who hold a US green card are not allowed to vote

- ❖ Each country has the right to create immigration legislation and policies that take into account their unique circumstances. In Bermuda's case, our limited size means that our lands have to be carefully managed in order to protect access for future generations
- ❖ Lawyer Peter Sanderson, who acted for applicants in the original case challenging the loophole, has stated that children and grandchildren of PRC holders should be given status as well
- ❖ The granting of status for PRCs must be considered in the wider context that includes:-
 - OBA introducing the notion of commercial immigration and the selling of status
 - OBA's Throne Speech promise to create a pathway to status for those persons born in Bermuda to expat parents
 - OBA's recent amendment to the Job Makers Act that made it easier for senior executives within the IB industry to be granted PRC status
 - OBA's recent amendment to the Companies Act to allow foreign companies the right to purchase residential property
 - OBA's acknowledgement that currently approximately 38% of our residential lands are owned by non-Bermudian
 - Our current unprecedented unemployment levels that include an estimated 3,000 unemployed Bermudians and a youth unemployment rate of approximately 38%
 - OBA's removal of term limits means that we could potentially be faced with a new wave of long-term residents seeking status
- ❖ Understanding how the granting of status has been used historically for political gain must not be lightly dismissed
- ❖ If we abided by the position that taxation without representation is wrong, work permit holders would be needed to be granted the right to vote
- ❖ PRCs were informed that they were not entitled to status and therefore should not have any expectations to status
- ❖ This is NOT a human rights issue as PRCs are not stateless & they maintain their citizenship in their homelands
- ❖ Despite what OBA says, this is NOT ***“like a country trying to deal with a refugee problem by simply shutting down the camps where refugees live”*** and to attempt to compare the PRC issue to a refugee problem is offensive
- ❖ Protesting the granting of status of PRCs is not xenophobic