

Public Evaluation

FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 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 July, 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.

Call for Transparency

This month revealed areas on concern regarding transparency, accountability and good governance:-

- The release of Thad Hollis' report on the JetGate investigation that highlighted:-
 1. the BPAC account "**was not authorized by the established protocols**"
 2. the Executive was never informed of the account or its funding
 3. that despite discovering other matters of concern, Hollis was instructed by Executive Resolution to only report on the \$350k donation
- Minister Fahy's subsequent denial that there was an attempt to keep the bank account and the underground campaign a secret
- Campaign manager Stephen DeCosta revealing questionable campaign practices including the use of paid bloggers
- Revelation that OBA's political campaign consultant Derrick Green was hired by Cosmic Consulting to work on a BTA project

The People's Campaign renews our call for election and parliamentary reform that include regulations regarding campaign financing. We also encourage the Premier to address these concerns publicly.

Privatization



On July 18th, 2014 Premier Michael Dunkley tabled the "**For Information**" **Public Bodies Reform Bill 2014** in the House of Assembly for public review and discussion. We encourage all members of the Public to visit www.gov.bm and review the bill. There are elements in this bill that are in direct violation of the People's Campaign manifesto.

We support the notion that Government does not own public property but holds it in trust on behalf of the people and we believe that the OBA should exercise proper stewardship that protects the assets of the people. We are fundamentally opposed to any plans to privatize and/or mutualize any public assets. Any unilateral decision by the Government to privatize public assets will be considered to be crossing a redline.

Call For Respectful Dialogue

July 21st, 2014 – PLP Chairman Maynard Dill stated, ***"We call upon Bermudians to do as we have always done, to treat each other with respect despite differing views. Online bigotry is not the way forward for our island home."***

July 22nd, 2014 - The Human Rights Commission announced that they had ***"grown concerned at the increasing amount of general anger in our community, and specific anger directed at politicians, Bermudians, PRC Holders and others who comment or are involved in the current debates."***

July 22nd, 2014 - Premier Dunkley followed the HRC and stated, ***"As leaders we have a responsibility to encourage responsible and reasonable dialogue, and I am calling on all residents to engage in tolerant and respectful commentary towards one another."***

The People's Campaign joins the call for respectful public dialogue as it fosters a healthy democracy that is organic and evolving.

Call for Responsible Leadership



In response to a placard held by a member of the public during our march on Cabinet, MP Susan Jackson, said, ***"The sign is clearly racist and we condemn it in the strongest terms. We are disappointed the People's Campaign would allow it to be carried in their march. Bermuda needs free speech, but it's got to be responsible free speech; not this. We expect agencies responsible for upholding standards of behaviour and the law to investigate."***

The People's Campaign requests a public apology from MP Jackson for her misrepresentation of the facts surrounding this issue. Our position on this is clear; we publicly denounce any kind of racism or discrimination. The placard was not condoned or authorized by the People's Campaign.

We note that MP Jackson remained silent on the selling of racially inflammatory t-shirts over Cup Match and call for political leaders to be forever mindful to be balanced in their approach to governing.

Community Meetings

The People's Campaign would like to inform members of the public that it will be holding three community meetings during the week of August 18th. The People's Campaign will be providing an update on issues that we have been addressing including PRC Status.

The meetings will be held on:

Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Thursday, August 21, 2014

Allen Temple A.M.E. Church Hall

Whitney Institute Middle School

St. Paul's Centennial Hall

All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Public Statements

Governor Fergusson rejects Motion (Justice)

July 4th, 2014

The House of Assembly passed a Motion which proposed that he Governor appoint a Commission of Inquiry into certain **"historic losses in Bermuda of citizens' property through theft of property, dispossession of property and adverse possession claims."**

However, Governor Fergusson rejected the Motion.

The People's Campaign takes the position that the House of Assembly operates with a mandate from the people and, as such, they neither need nor should they seek consent from a non-elected servant of the interests of the Crown.

We therefore call for the immediate establishment of a People's Review Commission of Inquiry into the historic losses of citizens' property in Bermuda.

PLP Abstain from Parliament (Justice)

July 11th, 2014

As a protest to Governor Fergusson's rejection of the aforementioned Motion, PLP decided to abstain from participating in Parliament. The PLP said **"the Governor has violated democracy by refusing to adhere to the will of the people expressed in parliament"** and call for the **"immediate recall of the**

Governor."

This resulted in the Opposition being absent from the House of Assembly for three sessions.

While the People's Campaign supports the stance taken against Governor Fergusson's decision, we urge the PLP to return to the House of Assembly when it reconvenes from the summer break.

Dr. Gibbons Tables Bermuda College Finances (Education)

July 11th, 2014

The People's Campaign requests that our Government provide the Bermuda College a grant sufficient to maintain operations and return free education for Bermudian students.

Dr. Grant Gibbons: Middle School Transformation Plan (Education)

July 18th, 2014

Dr. Gibbons presented the **Middle School Transformation Plan**, a set of 10 actions designed to improve Bermuda's middle schools, in the House of Assembly. He also highlighted the school performance audit conducted during the 2013-2014 school year.

The People's Campaign fully supports the Government's efforts to reform our middle schools and strongly encourage the OBA to collaborate with parents in this initiative.

Public Access to Information Amendment Bill 2014

(Transparency)

July 18th, 2014

PATI legislation passed in the House of Assembly with the Premier announcing that it will be fully operational by April 2015. **"The new PATI regime will change the relationship between people and their Government, conferring more power on the individual than ever before, and requiring greater levels of government accountability than ever before."**

The People's Campaign supports this legislation and views it as vital for evolving our democracy.

Public Collaboration: National Training Plan— Part 1 (Jobs)

July 23rd, 2014

A Town Hall Meeting was hosted to discuss the National Training Plan - Part 1 with Minister of Home Affairs, Michael Fahy, stating **"Ultimately we see this Plan as a tool to fulfill our goal of ensuring that Bermuda moves to a place of reducing our reliance on overseas labour because we will have carefully considered the future needs of the economy and developed our people accordingly."**

The People's Campaign applauds this initiative and looks forward to the release of Part 2. With an estimated 3,000 unemployed Bermudians and 38% youth unemployment rate, we implore the OBA to make every effort to fast-track the implementation of its recommendations.



Empowerment Youth SYMPOSIUM

Saturday August 16, 2014

St. Paul's AME Church Hall

<u>A</u>	9:45 am	Opening Remarks and Introductions - <i>Rev. Tweed</i>
<u>G</u>	10:00 am	Module 1 - Education and Training Bermuda College / Department of Workforce Development
<u>E</u>		
<u>N</u>	11:00 am	Module 2 - Community Involvement Centre on Philanthropy - <i>Jennifer Pitcher</i>
<u>D</u>	12:00 pm	Lunch
<u>A</u>	1:00 pm	Module 3 - Entrepreneurship BEDC - <i>Jamillah Lodge</i>
	2:00 pm	Module 4 - Civic Engagement People's Campaign Rep - <i>Jason Hayward</i>
	3:00 pm	Closing Remarks - <i>Chris Furbert</i>

"Creating Value Driven Lives"