

# Public Evaluation

FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2014



## WHY PUBLIC EVALUATIONS?

The People's Campaign will seek to assess the Government & the Opposition through public evaluations. Public evaluation will allow the People's Campaign to assess how effective those who sit in the House of Parliament are in addressing the issues raised by the People. In the month of August, we reviewed Ministerial statements, statements from the Opposition, articles in the media and public reports. We reviewed 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 of the decisions that are being made and how they are aligned with the People's expectations.

## OUR LEADERS SPEAK

### Premier on Democracy

Aug 14th, 2014



***"A summer of discontent is a sign of a healthy democracy,"*** Premier Michael Dunkley said. ***"I have no problem with people marching - the marches have been responsible and conducted in a good manner,"*** he said. Mr. Dunkley said the People's Campaign had been ***"straight with me"*** and he had been in regular contact with its leaders. ***"That's a foundation for growth and progress and we will continue to build on those foundations...We will get through our challenges if we conduct ourselves in a manner where voices can be heard in a respectful way. The world can judge us based on a strong, vibrant democracy and when people complain, they get results."***

The Premier, however, warned ***"veiled threats about escalation and intimidation .....doesn't roll with me."***

### Opposition Leader on the Westminster System

August 29th, 2014



***"Many who speak to us say that it is time for Bermudians to put aside political tribalism and look to new forms of governance other than the Westminster system that pits us against each other politically. We wholeheartedly agree with seeking better ways to move Bermuda forward. One of the pitfalls of the Westminster system is that it is based on a winner-takes-all construct."***

***The time has come for us as Bermudians, to sit down together and explore both our pragmatic realities and possible options as a nation. There is no one to rely on but us. There is no one to rescue us but us. At the start of each day, at the end of each day, we only have each other."***

***"Fellow Bermudians, it is paramount that we continue to stand for and with each other."***

## HIGHLIGHTING EDUCATION

### Scholarships Awarded

August 10th, 2014

Minister of Education and Economic Development, Dr. Grant Gibbons presented 38 awards for Further Education, Teacher Training, Mature Students, Sabbatical and Bermuda Government Scholars.

The People's Campaign congratulates these awardees but implores the Government to re-examine its decision to slash financial-needs based awards from \$750k to \$40k.

### Opposition Leader addresses our Students

August 19th, 2014

***"To the students beginning to head back to university, we encourage you to learn all that you can within the academic or technical institutions. ....Most importantly, please return to our island home and share in the building of a Bermuda that embraces the innovations of the 21st Century. Seek not to simply land a job. Seek to make your own footprint in our future."***

### BUT - Industrial Action

August 19th, 2014

Due to a disciplinary matter, the Bermuda Union of Teachers announced their intention to "engage in industrial action" next month.

The People's Campaign encourage the stakeholders to work towards a resolution in this matter.

### Education Commissioner Post Still Vacant

August 21st, 2014

The Commissioner of Education post has been vacant since April 2014 when Dr. Edmond Heatley resigned. In the meantime, Dr. Lou Matthews will continue in the role of Acting Commissioner.

The People's Campaign encourages the Government to address this in a timely basis.

### 36 New Teachers to Public System

Aug 29th, 2014

Dr. Gibbons welcomed 36 new teachers at the Department of Education's New Teacher Orientation and took the opportunity to highlight a series of new initiatives:-

- to improve teaching and learning,
- a middle school transformation plan,
- a national literacy plan,
- a national maths strategy,
- a focus on inclusive and special education,
- a focus on student behaviour, and,
- investment in the professional development of all public school teachers and educators

***"Our Ministry remains committed to our students, our families and the broad community to ensure that students have a positive education experience, and receive a first-class education of global standards to reach their full potential."***

The People's Campaign joins the Government in welcoming these new teachers to the public school system. We will remain watchful of the Government's impending education reform and encourage their timely implementation.

## IN THE NEWS

### Tucker's Point SDO Ruling

#### Good Governance

August 6th, 2014

Home Affairs Minister Senator Fahy's decision to support the DAB's ruling regarding Tucker's Point Club development was quashed by Chief Justice Kawalely. BEST's complaints about the fairness of the process were also acknowledged by the Chief Justice.

The People's Campaign recognizes the importance of having an effective appeals process that gives voice to concerned citizens.

### Grand Atlantic - MOU Extended

#### Peoples' Assets

August 12th, 2014

A 90-day extension to the MOU has been granted to The Bermudiana Beach Resort to "allow the strategic planning process to continue unabated..."

The People's Campaign reiterates that the selling of this prime piece of real estate contravenes our view that Government should protect the peoples' assets.

### PLP: Transportation Solution

#### Jobs

August 15th, 2014

Shadow Minister of Tourism, Zane DeSilva and Shadow Minister of Transport Lawrence Scott demanded that OBA resolve the on-going issues surrounding both visitor and local transportation.

The People's Campaign suggests that the Government make a concerted effort to collaborate with key stakeholders such as taxi and mini-bus operators, unions, WEDCO and the cruise lines to implement a viable solution; failure to collaborate impedes the Government's ability to make informed decisions.

### PRC Town Hall Meetings

#### Good Governance

Aug, 19th, 20th & 21st 2014

The People's Campaign held 3 public meetings on the issues surrounding the PRC and status. "We have provided information on Bermuda status, how it's obtained and the ways in which people qualify for status. We made it clear that having a PRC, according to the Immigration Act, is not a requirement for status."

We implore the OBA to engage in a comprehensive immigration review with the various stakeholders.

### Mid-Year Economic Review

#### Good Governance

August 21st, 2014

The People's Campaign applauds the Government's efforts to improve transparency on the reporting of the fiscal and economic affairs of the country. We encourage the public to review this report (a link to this report can be found [here](#)).

### BPAC Investigation Continues

#### Good Governance

August 21st, 2014

The Bermuda Police Service Financial Crime Unit confirmed that the investigation into the Bermuda Political Action Club account is still on-going.

In the spirit of transparency, the People's Campaign renews its call for the Premier to publicly address concerns stemming from BPAC, the allegations made by Stephen Decosta and Thad Hollis's resignation.

### Company Registrations Rise

#### Jobs

August 21st, 2014

Dr. Grant Gibbons, Minister of Education and Economic Development, reported that company registrations

were up 2% in the second quarter of 2014.

Whilst the People's Campaign is cautiously encouraged by this news, we are concerned about the lack of jobs that have been created over the last 20 months and implore the government to make job creation their priority.

### CoH Refuse to Sign Code of Conduct

#### Good Governance

August 21st, 2014

The People's Campaign is alarmed that elected officials at the Corporation of Hamilton have refused to sign a new Code of Conduct proposed by the Government. We encourage the two parties move quickly to resolve this issue keeping the people's best interest in mind in the process.

### Senator Brangman Resigns

#### Good Governance

August 23rd, 2014

Due to his appointment as the Director of Infrastructure and Development with Morgan's Point Ltd., Senator Nalton Brangman has resigned as the Junior Minister of Tourism and Transport and has given up serving on any committees that could conflict with his new employment

The People's Campaign supports the Senator's decision and encourages our elected representatives to act in accordance to their Ministerial Code of Conduct. To ensure good governance and transparency, politicians must mitigate against any conflicts of interests in a timely manner.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**Retail Sales Index (RSI)** in June 2014 decreased 1.6 per cent below the \$90.1 million recorded in June 2013. All retail sectors experienced declines in sales revenue with the exception of motor vehicle retailers and liquor stores. Building material stores registered the largest decrease in sales of 10.5 per cent while motor vehicle retailers recorded the strongest increase of 32.0 per cent.

**Consumer Price Index (CPI)** - Consumers paid 1.8% more in June 2014 than they did a year ago for a basket of goods and services. This means that the basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in April 2006 now cost \$124.20. Year-over-year, the Health & Personal Care sector increased 5.9% while the Food sector and the Rent sector rose 2.9% and 1.1% respectively.

**Balance of Payments (BOP) - Q1 2014** - The Bermuda current account recorded a surplus of \$225 million in the first quarter of 2014. This represented an \$11 million decrease year-over-year. The deficit on the goods account narrowed by \$17 million to \$216 million. Services transactions realised a surplus of \$89 million in the first quarter of 2014.

## THE PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN 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.

### JUSTICE

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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