

Public Evaluation

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 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 October, 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 to the decisions that are being made and how they are aligned with the People's expectations.

HEALTHCARE

The Bermuda Medical Doctors' Association Speaks Out Against Pre-Certification

In response to MP Atherden's announcement that the Ministry of Health was seeking a Request for Information for its Pre-Certification initiative, the Bermuda Medical Doctors' Association [BMDA] reiterated its opposition. The BMDA pointed to a symposium held last year "at which experts from the Caribbean and the United States [both jurisdictions in which pre-certification exists] encouraged Bermuda not to proceed with pre-certification." The reasons given included:

- **Pre-certification does not change physician behaviour**
- **Pre-certification can delay access to treatment**
- **Pre-certification will add to the costs of the system**
- **The biggest single driver to changing behaviour in the Cayman Islands was the implementation of guidelines, not the implementation of pre-certification.**

Pre-certification will require approval from a centralized utilization management agency for all eligible diagnostic imaging and clinical laboratory procedures [e.g. "all outpatient MRI, MRA, CT, CTA Scans, Pet, Nuclear Cardiology and Echocardiography tests ordered by non-specialist providers."]; and to specific clinical laboratory test orders and orders with a cumulative value above \$300. It is worthy to note that in July 2014, the BMDA presented a report to the Health Minister outlining alternatives to pre-certification.

Whilst the People's Campaign recognizes the need to cut health costs, we are not convinced that pre-certification will reduce costs and are concerned that it will lead to unnecessary bureaucratic delays in the delivery of healthcare. The People's Campaign encourages the Government to engage with key stakeholders within our medical industry to ensure that decisions are made in the best interest of the Bermudian people.

On October 1st, 2014, Minister Michael Fahy introduced a draft work permit policy proposal that, following a period of public consultation, is planned to come into effect on December 1st, 2014. The proposed policy outlines new work permit categories including:-

1. Bermuda Employment Visa [BEV]

- Exempt companies can hire non-Bermudians as 20% of their staff without having to advertise or apply for a work permit
- BEVs will be issued for a period of up to 7 years
- At the end of the BEV term, employers can apply for a new BEV or a Standard Work Permit
- BEVs will be made available for all job categories except for entry level positions, closed or restricted categories

2. New Business Work Permit [NBWP]

- Exempt companies will receive automatic approval of an unlimited number of work permits, if applied for within the first 6 months of company formation
- Employers can employ NBWPs in any job category except for entry level positions, closed or restricted categories
- NBWPs will be issued for a period of up to 5 years
- At the end of the NBWP term, employers can apply for a [new BEV](#) or a Standard Work Permit

3. Global Work Permit [GWP]

- A person already employed in another jurisdiction by a company can be transferred to a new position in the Bermuda office without advertising the position
- Automatic approval given to those who have been employed for 1+ year and who earn a gross salary exceeding \$125,000 per year. Exceptions to these restrictions will be given on a case-by-case basis
- GWPs will be issued for a period of up to 5 years
- At the end of the GWP term, employers can apply for a [new BEV](#) or a Standard Work Permit

While the People's Campaign recognizes the need to attract new companies to our shores, we have the following concerns:-

1. Without requiring companies to advertise jobs, **qualified** Bermudians are hindered from employment opportunities.
2. While a company can only have 20% of its staff employed via BEVs, there are no restrictions on the number of standard work permits that they can also be issued.
3. BEVs, NBWPs and GWPs can be renewed resulting in **qualified** Bermudians legally being denied access to these jobs for up to 14 years.
4. This new policy has the potential of limiting Bermudians to entry level positions, as posts immediately above could be filled by persons holding BEVs or NBWPs, thus obstructing the line of advancement.
5. If a company downsizes and has more than 20% of its staff holding a BEV, a company will not have to forfeit BEVs
6. The policy does not define entry level positions which potentially could lead to abuses of the system.
7. There are very few closed or restricted job categories that would apply to exempt companies.
8. Emphasis must be on both the enforcement and implementation of immigration policies that ensure the employment of qualified Bermudians.

The People's Campaign is pleased to see the proposal includes training programmes for Bermudians but encourages the Government to continue to collaborate with all stakeholders as balanced work permit policies are an essential element to getting our Bermudians back to work.

[Link to draft Work Permit Policy](#)

IN THE NEWS

2nd Economic Tripartite Retreat JOBS

October 6, 2014

Minister Fahy facilitated the retreat titled "**Encouraging Inward Investment**" that focused on how to stimulate growth in Bermuda. In attendance were over 80 representatives from the Island's business, hospitality and union sectors including the Bermuda Trade Union Congress, the Bermuda Hotel Association, the Bermuda Construction Association, the Bankers Association, the Chamber of Commerce, members of the Opposition, the Bermuda Employers Council, ABIC, ABIR, the local insurance companies, to the representatives of the Municipalities.

The People's Campaign supports true collaboration amongst stakeholders as this has proven to be the most effective way of facilitating workable solutions.

BPSU: Public Bodies Reform Act JOBS

October 6, 2014

The Bermuda Public Services Union [BPSU] released a position paper highlighting its stance on the [Public Bodies Reform Act](#) and has called on public servants and members of the public to "say no to the Government's reform agenda." [Link to BPSU Position Paper on the Public Bodies Reform Act.](#)

OBA: Ministerial Travel Portal Good Governance

October 7, 2014

Immediately following the PLP's demand for a "**reason for the OBA's delay in releasing information surrounding a recent trip to New York by the Premier and several OBA insiders**", the Cabinet Office announced that a web page on the Government Portal was launched to provide details of Ministerial travel. The site can be accessed via www.travel.gov.bm. It was revealed that for this trip Premier Michael Dunkley was accompanied by MP Grant Gibbons, BDA CEO Ross Webber, MP Shawn Crockwell, BTA CEO Bill Hanbury, the Premier's Press Officer Nea Talbot and Senator Jeff Baron.

People's Campaign applauds the launching of this webpage as it sup-

ports transparency but questions the need to have this event attended by so many political representatives given our current economic constraints. We remind the Government of their mandate to manage the people's finances responsibly.

OBA/PLP: C33 By-Election Candidates Announced

Good Governance

October 22, 2014

The OBA announced their candidate Georgia Marshall.

October 23, 2014

The PLP selected Jamahl Simmons as their representative.

OBA: Extends Exclusivity Period for Club Med Developer

JOBS

October 22, 2014

Minister of Tourism Development & Transport Shawn Crockwell announced that the Government has extended the exclusivity period by 60 days with the developer selected for the former Club Med property.

The People's Campaign notes that Bermuda Tourism Authority board member, Allison Reid, is also the Senior Vice President of Starwood Hotels & Resorts. Starwood is currently in negotiations with Desarrollos, the potential Club Med developer, to operate the property. We implore the Government to ensure that good governance practices are being followed.

OBA & BTUC

Good Governance

October 24, 2014

The Bermuda Trade Union Congress [BTUC] announced that the Premier has "**agreed that the Government will not proceed with the Public Bodies Reform Act at this time.**"

PLP: New Leadership

Good Governance

October 23, 2014

Opposition Leader Marc Bean retained the PLP leadership by defeating Walton

Brown 85-9 while David Burt defeated Michael Weeks 76-18 for Deputy.

OBA: Public Bodies Reform Act Good Governance

October 26, 2014

The Government confirmed they have agreed that the Public Bodies Reform Bill will "**not be tabled during the first session of the House of Assembly and will be deferred thereafter should collective efforts result in a 5% reduction in the operating budget for 2014/15.**"

PLP: Questions MP Gordon-Pamplin

Good Governance

October 27, 2014

Senate spokesperson for Public Works, Senator Diallo Rabain, said that allegations of an "**OBA Minister exploiting her position for personal benefit, while thousands of Bermudians were without power or had their roofs damaged, must be addressed immediately.**"

In the spirit of transparency and accountability, the People's Campaign believes it is imperative that the Minister provide answers to the questions posed by the Opposition.

OBA: Graduation Results Education

October 30, 2014

Minister of Education and Economic Development Dr. Grant Gibbons announced that in 2014, 227 students graduated with a Bermuda School Diploma [BSD] by attaining the minimum required GPA of 2.0. Ninety-five per cent of the BSD students who entered the S4 Cohort graduated. Of the graduates, 77 were male and 150 were female.

The People's Campaign congratulate these graduates and wish them much success in their future.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Retail Sales Index (RSI) - Retail sales in August 2014 increased 0.3 per cent above the \$82.0 million recorded in August 2013, and after adjusting for the annual retail sales rate of inflation — measured at 1.8 per cent in August — the volume of retail sales decreased by 1.5 per cent. [Link to RSI Report](#)

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - Consumers paid 2.4 per cent more in September 2014 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services included in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The level of inflation increased 0.3 percentage points from the 2.1 per cent measured in August 2014. The Health & Personal Care sector remained the largest contributor to the twelve-month rate of price increase with the annual increase in September 2014 measuring 5.9 per cent.. [Link to RSI Report](#)

Bermuda Health Council [BHeC] - Link to [National Health Accounts Report 2014](#) with highlights including:

Total Health Costs in FYE 2013

- Bermuda's total health spending was \$705 million
- This amounted to 12.7% of GDP
- Health spending per person was \$11,297
- Total health spending increased 5.2%

Funding sources:

- 70% of financing was from the private sector [\$496.8 million]
- 30% of financing was from the public sector [\$208.2 million]
- Health insurance accounted for 58% of funding [\$408.6 million]

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.

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