

Public Evaluation

FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 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 November, 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.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Our Parliament reconvened on November 7th 2014 with the reading of the throne speech. Included in the table below are links to the various ministerial statements made in the House of Assembly during the month of November.

[Click here for link to November's Parliamentary Questions & Answers](#)

Call for Reform

Date	Subject	Minister
November 7, 2014	<u>The Official Throne Speech</u>	
November 14, 2014	<u>Reply to the Throne Speech</u>	MP Marc Bean
November 14, 2014	<u>Police Complaints Authority</u>	MP Michael Dunkley
November 14, 2014	<u>Treatment of Offenders Board</u>	MP Michael Dunkley
November 14, 2014	<u>Grand Atlantic</u>	MP Patricia Gordon-Pamplin
November 21, 2014	<u>Opportunity Workshop</u>	MP Patricia Gordon-Pamplin
November 21, 2014	<u>Introduction of Free Online Tutoring</u>	MP Wayne Scott
November 21, 2014	<u>Fay and Gonzalo</u>	MP Michael Dunkley
November 21, 2014	<u>Bermuda College Annual Report</u>	MP Grant Gibbons
November 21, 2014	<u>Energy Summit</u>	MP Grant Gibbons
November 21, 2014	<u>National Office</u>	MP Jeanne Atherden
November 28, 2014	<u>UN National Day</u>	MP Jeanne Atherden
November 28, 2014	<u>Online Tutoring</u>	MP Wayne Scott
November 28, 2014	<u>UK Entrustment Letter</u>	MP E.T. Richards
November 28, 2014	<u>Bermuda's G8 Ownership</u>	MP E.T. Richards

Jonathan Starling, former Independent candidate, has drafted legislation focused on reforms that would improve democratic accountability. While only Members of Parliament can table this type of legislation, Mr. Starling hopes that these draft documents would encourage public discussion that will ultimately lead to collaborative reform.

Right of Recall legislation - gives the Speaker of the House the power to deem an MP subject to a recall petition if the MP has been found guilty committing certain acts or breaching certain codes of conduct. He consulted existing Right of Recall legislation throughout the world, primarily that of British Columbia in Canada and the UK, as they share a common kinship with Bermuda's legislature.

[\[Link to legislation\]](#)

Referendum [Clarity] Act 2014 - is based largely on the UK's Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, which mandates the UK's Electoral Commission to ensure that referendum questions are neutral and intelligible. [\[Link to legislation\]](#)

The People's Campaign applauds this initiative and encourages our political representatives to engage the public on both election and parliamentary reform that would lead to a more collaborative, transparent and accountable form of governing.

NEWS FROM THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

LEGISLATION

Tabled by the Government		
Date Tabled	Legislation	Ministry
November 7, 2014	Fire Safety Act 2014	Minister of National Security
November 7, 2014	International Cooperation (Tax Information Exchange Agreements) Amendment Act 2014	Minister of Finance
November 7, 2014	U.S.A. – Bermuda Tax Convention Agreement Act 2014	Minister of Finance
November 7, 2014	Children Amendment Act 2014	Minister of Community, Culture & Sports
November 7, 2014	Government Fees Amendment (No.4) Regulations 2014	Minister of Finance
November 7, 2014	Consideration of the Charities (Anti-Money Laundering, Anti-Terrorist Financing and Reporting) Regulations 2014	Junior Minister of Home Affairs
November 7, 2014	Bermuda College Buildings Reserve (Closure of Fund) Order 2014	Minister of Education & Economic Development
November 21, 2014	Land Valuation and Tax (Postponement of Preparation of Quinquennial Draft Valuation List) Order 2014	Minister of Public Works
November 21, 2014	Cannabinoid Pharmaceutical Products Act 2014	Minister of National Security
November 21, 2014	Bermuda College Amendment Act 2014	Minister of Education & Economic Development
November 28, 2014	Casino Gaming Act 2014	Minister of Tourism Development & Transport
November 28, 2014	Bermuda Monetary Authority Amendment Act 2014	Minister of Finance
November 28, 2014	Insurance Amendment Act 2014	Minister of Finance
November 28, 2014	Employment (Protected Disclosures) Order 2014	Minister for Home Affairs
November 28, 2014	Good Governance (Protected Disclosure) Order 2014	Junior Minister for Home Affairs
Tabled by the Opposition		
Date Tabled	Legislation	Ministry
November 7, 2014	Statutory Interest Rate Reduction Act 2014	Shadow Minister of Finance
November 7, 2014	Debtor's Amendment Act 2014	Shadow Minister of Economic Development
November 7, 2014	Public Holidays Amendment Act 2014	Shadow Minister of Community, Culture and Sport
November 7, 2014	Motion: "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."	Hon. D. P. Lister
November 7, 2014	Motion: "BE IT RESOLVED by this Honourable House that for an entity funded by Government wherein the principals receive remuneration that exceeds fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) annually, the Minister responsible for that entity shall, when requested by this Honourable House, disclose to this House the nature and details of the remuneration of the principals of that entity as soon as practicable."	Hon. W. L. Furbert
November 7, 2014	Motion: "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."	Hon. Z. J. DeSilva
November 14, 2014	Commissions of Inquiry Amendment Act 2014	Shadow Minister of Immigration/External Affairs
November 28, 2014	Auxiliary Bicycle Amendment Act 2014	Minister of Immigration/External Affairs

OBA/PLP: New Parliamentarians Sworn In

Governance

Nov. 6th, 2014

Vic Ball was sworn in as an OBA senator replacing Senator Nalton Brangman who had resigned on November 4th citing professional reasons.

Nov. 21st, 2014

Jamahl Simmons was sworn in as a PLP representative following a November 18th by-election which was triggered by the retirement of MP Terry Lister.

OBA: 'Cash Back Programme'

Governance

Nov. 6th, 2014

Premier Michael Dunkley presented \$214,000 in confiscated assets to charitable and community organizations including:

North Village Community Club - \$24,000

Pembroke Hamilton Club - \$24,000

Team StreetSafe – \$33,000

Focus – \$33,000

Family Centre – \$100,000

OBA: Walks Out Of House in Protest

Good Governance

Nov. 14th, 2014

OBA engaged in a walk-out during the Opposition Leader Marc Bean's delivery of the Reply to the Throne Speech to demonstrate their "*outrage and disgust*" alleging that MP Bean "*accosted two female members of the party and subjected one in particular to a misogynistic, hate-filled attack...*" on November 6th at the Sandys South bye-election advanced poll. The Bermuda Police Service is currently conducting an investigation into the incident.

The People's Campaign implores those that have been elected to

serve the people of Bermuda to conduct themselves in a manner that is reflective of the responsibility bestowed on them as leaders and as agents of the people.

Auditor on Port Royal Overruns

Good Governance

Nov. 14th, 2014

Auditor General Heather Jacobs Matthews released a *Special Report on the Port Royal Golf Course Improvements Capital Development Project* criticizing both the Board of Trustees and the Government's management of the project. Originally budgeted at \$4.5 million in 2006, the project was completed for \$24 million in 2011.

Prudent management of the people's finances is one of government's key responsibilities. The People's Campaign implores the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to examine, consider and report on this Auditor General's report in a timely manner.

OBA: Airport Re-Development

Jobs

Nov. 21st, 2014

MP Bob Richards announced the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Canadian Commercial Corporation [CCC] for re-development of the Bermuda airport.

PLP: Airport Re-Development

Good Governance

Nov. 23rd, 2014

Opposition Finance Minister MP Burt likened the OBA's airport re-development plan as "*privatisation through the back door without a tender process*" and said that "*without a*

fair, open, and transparent tender process, (this) is a slap in the face to good governance".

The PLP hosted a Town Hall meeting to discuss both their concerns surrounding the airport redevelopment and an alternative strategy.

The People's Campaign recognizes that there is bipartisan for the redevelopment of the airport. However, we have concerns that this deal may equate to privatisation which contravenes the spirit of the OBA's recent promise to put the Public Bodies Reform Act on hold. In addition, we have concerns about both the lack of transparency and the failure of our government to follow internationally accepted tendering practices.

OBA/PLP: Work Permit Policy

Jobs/Good Governance

Nov. 28th, 2014

Minister Fahy announced the delay in the release of the final work permit policy, following being made aware by ABIC of some companies' intention to engage in "double dipping" i.e. use BEVs for mid-level employees as well as obtain work permit waivers under existing policy for essential employees. MP Walton Brown said he "*reached out to Minister Fahy last week in an effort to meet and attempt to arrive at collaborative solutions that meet the needs of Bermudians and businesses. No meeting has yet been scheduled.*"

The People's Campaign highlighted this same concern in October's Public Evaluation Newsletter and is pleased to see the controversial BEV policy has been put on hold. We implore that the Government collaborate with stakeholders including the Opposition to ensure that Bermudians have preferential access to employment opportunities.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Consumer Price Index (CPI) - Consumers paid 2.6 % more in October 2014 than they did a year ago for the basket of goods and services]. The level of inflation increased 0.2% from the 2.4% measured in September 2014. The Health & Personal Care sector remained the largest contributor to the increase with an annual increase measured 7.4%. Other sectors that had a strong impact on the annual rate of inflation were the Transport & Vehicle (+4.9%) and Food sector (+3.5%). [\[Link to CPI Report\]](#)

Retail Sales Index (RSI) - Retail sales in October 2014 were 4.4% higher than the \$82.2 million recorded in October 2013, and after adjusting for the annual retail sales rate of inflation — 2.2% in October — the volume of retail sales increased by 2.0%. local and overseas spending total of \$90.0 million. [\[Link to RSI report\]](#).

Bermuda Facts & Figures - The Department of Statistics has released the 2014 Bermuda Facts and Figures publication, which contains an array of statistical data and information pertaining to Bermuda's economy. [\[Link to Facts & Figures Publication\]](#)

The Bermuda Tourism Authority Quarterly Report - BTA released their latest quarterly report highlighting key activities for the quarter. [\[Link to BTA Report\]](#)

2014 Fiscal Performance & Economic Review - The Ministry of Finance reported on the 2014/15 First Half Fiscal Performance [\[Link to Report\]](#)

Ministerial Travel - [\[Link to Government webpage detailing Ministers' travel costs\]](#)

Bermuda's Exclusive Economic Zone - The Government has released the report on the future of [Bermuda's marine Exclusive Economic Zone](#) [\[Link to EEZ report\]](#), saying that "it is premature to establish a firm or definitive position on the future of the EEZ at this time."

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.