Statement from the Opposition Leader, the Hon. Marc Bean, JP, MP

The announcement through the media that the House of Assembly would remain adjourned until Friday is most surprising and unusual, and we can only hope that this is not a desperate attempt by the OBA to delay answering to the people of Bermuda.

As the official Opposition we have not committed nor rejected any new approach put forward by Minister Fahy and Minister Moniz.

The position of the PLP remains the same, that the OBA withdraw this bill and take a bipartisan, comprehensive approach to immigration reform. After rejecting the offer to form a Joint Select Committee on this matter, the OBA have made it abundantly clear that they are not willing to compromise nor negotiate as honest brokers.

We believe that a bipartisan comprehensive approach to immigration reform would address not only the immigration issues that have divided families, but will also address protecting Bermudians from being marginalized from jobs and opportunities in our own country.

The issues surrounding immigration in Bermuda are complex and carry with them significant baggage from historical misuse and abuse of immigration policies. For that reason, we will continue to stand strong for an approach that is inclusive, addresses the full spectrum of issues and concerns surrounding immigration and that strengthens the job and economic security for Bermudians.