“Nothing starts from ground zero. Accordingly, the PLP have inherited some initiatives (both positive and negative) from the former OBA administration, and indeed, the former PLP administration. However, it must be said that the PLP under Premier Burt have done extremely well in the relatively short past 12 months articulating, and to a reasonable extent, achieving or delivering the Election Platform initiatives it said it would deliver. Added to that the PLP, during this lengthy honeymoon period has enjoyed electoral successes. Successes in legacy constituencies that heretofore would have “run labour out of their neighbourhoods on a rail”. There appears to be a curious shift in the demographics, favourably one hopes, towards the PLP’s voting base.

But here’s the rub as things are settling down and the “rubber is beginning to meet the road”. Can, in an acceptable time-frame, other election platform promises feasibly, economically, or realistically be delivered, given the continued reliance on a trickle-down, elitist designed and rewarding economy, that was severely balkanized and placed into the hands of 2 to 4% of the population who owned the economy in the first place? More substantively, did the election platform identify, or contemplate, sufficient of the initiatives that would address the day-to-day challenges their supporters are facing “on the ground”? Moreover, have new, out-of-the-blue objective initiatives, not in the contemplation of any political party on July 18, 2017, entered the arena causing an apparent shift in political perceptions of a labour party that it has to carefully manage the economy and simultaneously retain its political base? Finally, will the PLP have to look outside, and firstly further inside, of its membership and support base, in order to acquire the resources and capacity to deal with these challenges, old and new.

The ‘old’ challenges have not to date been scratched let alone firmly addressed. For example, I speak of Bermudians, seniors and too many black middle-class families in particular, losing their life’s possessions and homes that they have built from ground up to financial institutions who repossess them having more favourable “buyers in the wings”. These private banks, rather than our public regulatory authority BMA, have the ultimate discretion unlike other democracies to charge interest rates which in the economic climate and high-cost of living of Bermuda, put the monthly payments of these mortgages and loans outside of the reach of many of our Bermudians, particularly those on fixed incomes such as pensions and the like. More financial institutions geared to accommodate people who fall into these categories need to be licensed to offer mortgages etc. rates of 2 to 5% so that monthly payments are more manageable. Appropriate, and qualified “reverse mortgages” must also be implemented to reduce, or put an end to, seniors losing their homes in the manner they are today.

The “new” challenge is the at times, “faddish” cryptocurrency craze. Everything is “blockchain and bitcoin”. No question this is exceedingly important for an economy to be in a position one day to funnel profits etc. from this sector back into the community in the form of jobs, business etc. However, unless properly and convincingly communicated to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Public, it appears to a growing number of people in the PLP’s support base that this “new and vibrant” leadership are attempting to out-OBA their immediate predecessors the OBA in entrepreneurial activities with correspondingly lesser attention paid to their day-to-day challenges. From the drivers of this initiative this may be good international press, however, such press must be tempered or balanced with how this initiative is being received by those who put the PLP where it is. There is unquestionably, some “shifting of the sands” in this regard from a sector of the PLP’s support base.

On balance, however, the PLP, not only through the renewed vigour and hope its leadership currently has brought to the political landscape of Bermuda, but also when juxtaposed against the current, self-
inflicted for the most part, shambolic and traumatized state of the UBP influenced OBA; appears to have the numbers and the time to successfully address the challenges, old and new outlined above, and turn them to advantage for many years to come.”