

The Progressive Labour Party was voted in by the people of Bermuda to handle the affairs of the country ailing from years of neglect, bad governance and leadership by the former Government.

Under the OBA 2000 jobs were lost, the debt doubled and \$100 million was spent on the America's Cup while our schools, our buses and our infrastructure were neglected and Bermudians were marginalized in our own country. The OBA's approach of putting everyone but Bermudians first was rejected at the polls in 2017 and again in the 2018 Warwick By-election

Since being given the opportunity to serve the people of Bermuda, the PLP has worked tirelessly to reverse OBA policies and build a better fairer Bermuda. The PLP has made great strides in creating opportunities and implementing policies to create a fairer and better Bermuda for Bermudians. Some of the successes include:

- § Leveling the playing field for black businesses by reforming government procurement policy
- § Reversing OBA cuts to Scholarships, expanding access to scholarships and providing financial support to 445 students to ensure access to Bermuda College for all Bermudians
  
- § Introduced the first STEAM programme into Bermuda's public schools, preparing our Bermudian youth for the careers and economy of today and tomorrow
- § Amended the Immigration Act to give it priority over the Human Rights Act.
- § Created the Violence Reduction Programme to rehabilitate violent offenders and reduce the reoccurrence of violent, aggressive behaviour
- § Ended the forced conscription of young Bermudian men and have created new career opportunities within the Royal Bermuda Regiment
- § Provided government workers with their first pay increase in almost a decade
- § Introduced a Housekeepers training Program with our hotels, the Bermuda Hospitality Institute and the Ministry of Workforce Development that protected entry-level positions for Bermudians and provided participants with certification from The American Hotel and Lodging Association
- § Created a Summer Entrepreneurship Program for our Bermudian youth to cultivate and encourage entrepreneurship while creating an opportunity to earn money over the summer
- § Created the Land Title Registry to protect Bermudian home ownership
- § Placed 4 new buses on the road to improve service and reliability
- § Eliminated payroll tax for disabled Bermudians
- § Slashed Payroll Tax for Bermudians earning less than \$96,000
- § Increased seniors' pensions
- § Decriminalizing Cannabis under 7 grams

§ Reversing OBA immigration policy that made it harder for Bermudian entertainers to earn a living

§ Doubling the guaranteed capacity of the Bermuda Economic Development Corporation providing an option for Bermudian entrepreneurs who have been underserved by local banks

§ Modernizing hotel concessions to stay ahead of our global competition, while creating better accountability for hiring, training and promoting Bermudian workers and entertainers

§ Providing tax relief for first-time entrepreneurs

§ Expanding home Health and Seniors care benefit under HIP to provide additional income to families while reducing overall costs to the healthcare system

§ Creating a National Workforce Development Plan, in collaboration with our key stakeholders

Additionally, we are firmly committed to and in the process of education reform, tax reform, diversification of our economy, and creating jobs.

While many of our platform promises have been kept, we recognize that so long as one Bermudian who wants to work is unable to find work, as long as one Bermudian can't afford to keep their lights on and one Bermudian is forced to look elsewhere for jobs and opportunities that our work at building a better, fairer Bermuda remains unfinished.

We, unlike the previous administration, are taking on the forces that keep Bermudians unemployed and underpaid. We, unlike the previous administration, have a new and fresh team with new ideas and are committed to putting Bermudians first. These ideas have seen seniors pensions increased, reduced statutory interest rates and scholarships for Bermudians. Furthermore, under the PLP administration, we now have the lowest payroll taxes for workers in 23 years and an increase in pay for public sector workers for the first time in 7 years.

The PLP was elected to transform Bermuda's economy for the future, and our policies will put development and investment in Bermudians at the centre of our plans will yield long term benefits. We are a different government implementing a different agenda for the betterment of all Bermudians.

We encourage the public to be on notice for the reading of the National Budget 2019-2020, [on Friday, February 22.](#)