Deputy Premier Walter Roban  
*Press Conference Remarks*  
*Representative for Constituency 15 - Pembroke East*  
Monday, September 28, 2020

Good morning,

Today, we’re here to offer a few thoughts on the OBA’s platform. We’ve had the opportunity to read it cover to cover. And, here’s what surprised me - In 20 pages of their platform, the PLP or David Burt were mentioned by name 22 times. That is more than 1 time per page. Conversely, in the PLP’s nearly 40-page platform, the OBA or Craig Cannonier were mentioned just twice.

I give you these facts to say that the OBA offers no ideas and no solutions in their platform - it is full of attacks against the PLP.

A platform is supposed to be a document that outlines what you will do for the country. But, when you look beyond the OBA’s attacks against David Burt and the PLP - and the platitudes with no details, you find some interesting items including:

- The OBA has stated that they will implement the recommendations of the Fiscal responsibility panel who has said Bermuda is undertaxed, and has recommended tax increases combined with an income tax of $200 million!!! These proposed OBA tax increases will affect all Bermudians and increase taxes on all by 20%. The PLP’s Minister of finance - and our platform - does not agree with the Fiscal Responsibility Panel Recommendation - and has said that we will not increase the tax burden on existing persons and focus on growth. That is a clear difference in approach. The OBA supports that $200 million tax increase coupled with income tax recommended by the Fiscal Responsibility Panel, and the PLP wants to grow the economy to increase government revenue. Before the pandemic we proved we could do that, and we will do it again.
- The document included, and I quote, to “Promote adequate Island-wide Wi-Fi coverage, particularly in our schools.” End quote. We’ve put wi-fi in all of our schools and our budgets this year expanded the coverage and increased speeds at our schools.
- And, they said, and I quote, we will “waive stamp duty on Mortgages for first time home buyers.” We thank the OBA for their endorsement - but this was already implemented by the PLP.
- They said - “Give payroll and other tax breaks for the hiring of Bermudians in trainee positions” - Again - already in place thanks to the PLP!

Throughout the OBA platform - which, incidentally, is half the length of the PLP’s - you find plenty of attacks against the PLP, you find policies that the PLP has already implemented, and, you find plenty of vague statements - but, no real concrete ideas to see us through the economic recovery.

To propose things that already exist is an insult to the intelligence of voters, and it is unconscionable that the OBA supports a $200 million tax increase on Bermudians during tough economic times. Who is coming up with their economic plans? Certainly not Curtis Dickinson.

Bermuda, at the end of the day, this election is about who is best suited to see us through the economic recovery and a possible second wave of the coronavirus. You must ask yourself - whether it’s the no ideas, no solutions and only attacks OBA or if it’s a PLP team, led by David Burt, that has kept to the high road and offered a detailed and realistic economic recovery plan that doesn’t call for massive tax increases?

That question is for you to answer on October 1st. Thank you.