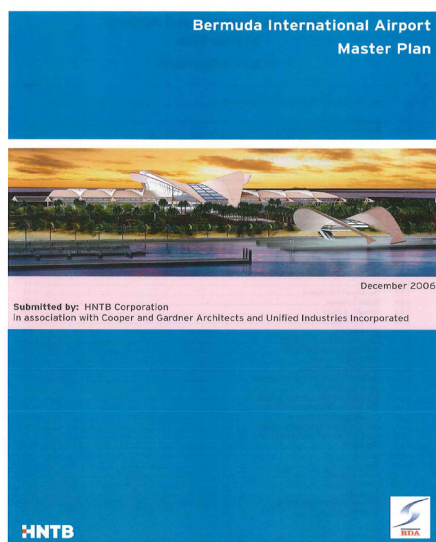




# The Redevelopment of the Airport



## *What the Minister of Finance, E. T. "Bob" Richards Had to Say*



## *What the Shadow Minister of Finance, David Burt Had to Say*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise Honourable Members of the signing of an historic Memorandum of Agreement with the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) to pave the way for the re-development of the Bermuda airport, including various sources of financing. This re-development will involve the construction of a new purpose built terminal building. The MOU will allow for continued dialogue, and ultimately, an exclusive negotiation in relation to the redevelopment of the LF Wade International Airport. The signed MOU will be tabled in this Honourable House today.

The redevelopment of the Bermuda airport represents one of the most important capital projects ever undertaken on our island shores. It will play a crucial role in the renaissance of the Bermuda economy while also being one of the most costly. Its success will be paramount to all in Bermuda.

The construction phase will initially produce hundreds of much-needed jobs for Bermudians and deliver multiple layers of public benefit including, we believe, the basis for a new prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, one might ask, "Why do we need a new airport?" The airport is Bermuda's principal gateway, the place where travelers to our island get their first impression. What do we want that impression to be? We want that first

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## AIRPORT PROJECT MUST GO OUT TO TENDER

*"OBA should not give away \$1 Billion of future revenue without a tender process."*

After what he termed a, "day of confusion that produced more questions than answers" - Shadow Minister of Finance, David Burt said, "Bermuda deserves better than privatisation through the back door without a tender process."

The Minister of Finance has introduced a proposition for the single most important asset in Bermuda, but he seems to be unaware of the critical details. The Minister's performance in Parliament on Friday, where he struggled to answer basic questions on the airport project, will go down as a day of confusion that produced more questions than answers. With each interview, with each statement and with each additional answer, more is revealed and more questions arise.

Since the Minister's announcement on November 10th, we have learned:

- The OBA cabinet authorised, in advance, the Minister of Finance to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Commercial Corporation without an open and competitive tender process.
- The OBA is considering a concessionary agreement for at least 30 years with a Canadian firm; this amounts to the

continued on page 14

# Bermuda Trade Union Congress

## PRESS RELEASE

### Proposed Redevelopment of the Bermuda L.F. Wade International Airport

The Bermuda Trade Union Congress ("BTUC") is very mindful of the number of questions that are being raised by our members and other Bermudians, concerning the Bermuda Government's plans to partner with the Canadian Commercial Corporation ("CCC") to redevelop the Bermuda L.F. Wade International Airport.

The non-binding MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ('MOU') does not provide adequate information with regards to the scope, depth, hiring of Bermudians, and other manpower requirements in addition to the total cost of the airport development.

There is also insufficient distinction concerning the Private Public Partnership ('PPP') or whether there are plans to privatize all aviation and airport services. As taxpayers who have entrusted the Government to manage Bermuda's assets and resources responsibly, we call on the Government to answer the following questions as soon as possible, so that further clarification can be provided with regard to the redevelopment of the airport and Bermuda's aviation services.

1. Will there be full public consultation about the project, including the question of whether the project should be publicly or privately delivered?
2. Will elected officials be fully informed about the alternatives and be able to speak freely about the information they receive concerning development of the P3?

3. Have the full, lifetime costs of delivering the project through a "P3" been calculated and compared to public alternatives delivering the same level and quality of service and will the detailed information and calculations be made public?
4. How important are assumptions of risk transfer in the P3 proposal and could any promised risk transfer instead be delivered through a public procurement process that involved a fixed price contract?
5. Will the Government be responsible for guaranteeing the private sector's revenues? Who will be liable for cost over-runs, or project deficiencies?
6. Does the Government have the capacity and resources to properly evaluate, administer and monitor a contract of the length, scale and complexity of the P3?
7. Does the P3 permit the Government the flexibility to make future changes in service delivery or other public policy decisions, to end the P3 in the procurement stage and to terminate the contract if it is not meeting the public interest?
8. What impact will the P3 have on the local economy and on workers' jobs, pay and benefits?
9. What are the prospects of small and medium-sized local businesses bidding on the project?

The Government has promised to be transparent and as such we expect full disclosure and transparency through meaningful dialogue.

## THE WORKERS VOICE

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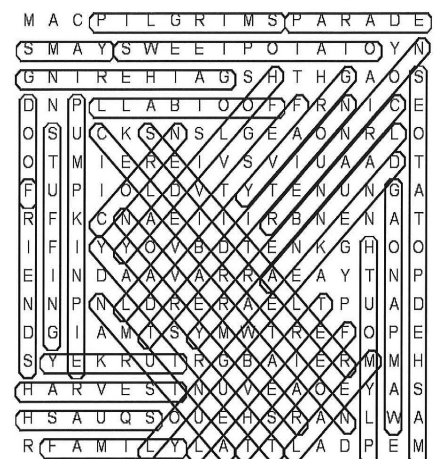
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## PUZZLE SOLUTION

### Thanksgiving (US)

This is the solution to the puzzle located [here](#).



ANNUAL	GRAVY	RELATIVES
AUTUMN	HARVEST	REUNION
CELEBRATION	HOLIDAY	SQUASH
CORN	LONG WEEKEND	STUFFING
CRANBERRY	MASHED POTATOES	SWEET POTATO
FAMILY	MEAL	THURSDAY
FEAST	NOVEMBER	TRADITION
FESTIVAL	PARADE	TRAVEL
FOOD	PILGRIMS	TURKEY
FOOTBALL	PLYMOUTH	WAMPANOAG
FRIENDS	PUMPKIN PIE	YAMS
GATHERING		

The hidden message is: MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE

# Two Wrongs Don't Make A Right

In my opinion, it should be patently obvious to all Bermudians that the recent "Respect for Women" campaign by the Opposition OBA was a ruse and really had nothing to do with respect for women in Bermuda. In fact, as I see the whole campaign was designed to assist the OBA in their attempt to have lawyer, Georgia Marshall elected to Parliament instead of Jamahl Simmons.

Bermudians should remember that the OBA's latest smear campaign against the PLP began on October 30, 2014 when Toni Daniels, who wrote an opinion column for Bernews under the by-line "OBA Communications Committee Chairperson", entitled "Jamahl Simmons a Flawed Politician". In that column, Toni Daniels made several derogatory comments about Mr. Simmons and several bloggers described her column as "gutter politics". But I have no doubt that in Ms. Daniels' mind she was doing the right thing and in my opinion she was doing as instructed. No, she did not call Jamahl Simmons a "political whore", a term that is often used in political circles, but she spent several column inches vilifying him. In fact, in her second paragraph she wrote: "Simple ambition, not political philosophy, is the force that drives him".

For those that don't know, the meaning of "political whore" is as follows: "A politician who will sell out their constituents if it means they might get one step higher on the ladder. They will completely

flip-flop on an issue that was the core of their campaign platform just because they think it might help them get elected to, for instance, Lake Forest City Council. They will even sell out the person who threw them proxies to get them into office. They became so "whorish" that in the end, they are so slutty and nasty that nobody will touch them with a ten foot ballot." According to Toni Daniels, "Simple ambition, not political philosophy, is the force that drives him (Jamahl Simmons).

Remembering that the "pen is mightier than the sword", I was disgusted at the vile comments made by the OBA's Communications Committee Chairperson which were directed at a male member of the PLP. I personally am just as offended when vile comments are directed at men as I am when they are directed at women. I have more often than not had to come to the defense of BIU President Chris Furbert either on local blogs or talk radio made by some in our community. More often than not the comments about the BIU President are vile, but I have yet to see someone from the OBA, or from the PLP for that matter, other than Brother Derrick Burgess demonstrate outrage and disgust.

But back to the term "political whore" which so offended members of the OBA, in particular the Members of Parliament that they demonstrated their outrage by exiting the Chambers in the House of Assembly while the Opposition Leader, Marc Bean presented his



**IN MY OPINION**  
BY LAVERNE FURBERT

Reply to the Throne Speech. In doing my research of the term on the Internet, I came across several instances where the term was used. Just so that readers could understand, how often the term is used in political circles, I have listed below some of the headlines from various international newspapers and media organizations:

"California NOW President: 'Meg Whitman Could Be Described As A Political Whore'

Huckabee Letter: Obama Surrounds Himself "With Morally Repugnant Political Whores"

Merkel: The political whore of Europe

Louisiana Democrat Senator Mary Landrieu: Not Only A Political Whore But A Racist

Benghazi: Judge Pirro calls former CIA Chief Morell a Political Whore  
Judge Jeanine To Former CIA Director Michael Morell: You're A Political WHORE Who Perjured Yourself For Money

Rev. Richard Dunn Is a Political Whore"

continued on page 11



# Trinidad and Tobago Taught Canada an Anti-Corruption Lesson

By Patricia Adams (for the Huffington Post) Published September 25, 2013

After weeks of maneuvering by the Canadian government to secure a lucrative contract in Trinidad and Tobago for graft-tainted engineering giant SNC-Lavalin, the government of that Caribbean nation has announced that it isn't interested in dealing with a company that has "difficulty in passing the test of confidence."

According to Trinidad and Tobago's Guardian newspaper, the government announced yesterday that it was pulling out of a planned arrangement with the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) to have SNC-Lavalin build a \$163-million hospital. This followed a meeting with Canadian High Commissioner Gérard Latulippe and a delegation from the CCC, a Canadian Crown corporation which had been arranging the contract. CCC flew in its vice president of strategy and organizational development Mariette Fyfe-Fortin and regional director Luc Allary for the meeting.

The T&T government, as well as opposition lawmakers, had asked why they should hire SNC-Lavalin given the growing list of charges against the Montreal-based company for corruption both in Canada and abroad. Opposition member Colm Imbert had recently filed a motion in parliament to fire SNC-Lavalin.

According to the Guardian, the Canadian delegation believes that SNC-Lavalin has mended its ways. They presented a due diligence review to prove it and encouraged the T&T government to enter into a contract with SNC-Lavalin to build the hospital.

"They told us that [SNC-Lavalin] had developed enhanced management

standards, ethics in governance as well as improved compliance, governance, quality, health and safety standards," said Jearlean John, the chairman of the Urban Development Corporation (UDeCOTT) - the developer that would be responsible for the hospital project.

Apparently those assurances were not enough for Housing Minister Dr. Roodal Moonilal, who was also present at the meeting. Signing a contract with SNC-Lavalin could harm T&T's international reputation, he argued.

"I feel that there is public concern and lack of confidence in the contractor [SNC-Lavalin] and the position of T&T's reputation. All projects, especially government-to-government arrangements, must bring confidence in public interest."

For that reason, he said, "after a discussion, we invited the CCC to nominate another contractor."

Opposition MP Imbert -- who has been an outspoken critic of the deal -- said it has been obvious for months that SNC-Lavalin was "unsuitable" to build the hospital, as the company has been accused of "bribing politicians and public officials in developing countries."

"It would have been a terrible thing for T&T if we were exposed to this kind of behaviour," he said.

Imbert is also upset by the suggestion that Trinidad and Tobago should ask CCC to nominate another contractor. "Do we not have a say in the procurement process?" he asked.

The Canadian government should take note: both Dr. Moonilal and Mr. Imbert make good points.

The Trinidadians have good reason for not wanting to deal with SNC-

Lavalin. The company is being investigated for bribery and corruption scandals in half a dozen countries. Recent media reports and a civil suit filed against the company by a former employee, also charged with corruption, indicate that the company routinely used code letters to conceal alleged bribery payments. The civil suit -- filed in Toronto -- alleges that upper management was made aware of the bribes being paid, but failed to take action to stop the practice.

SNC-Lavalin's corrupt ways recently led the World Bank to slap a 10-year ban on the company and more than 100 of its affiliates - an unprecedented move. Because of that decision, Canada is now home to more debarred companies than any other country.

The SNC-Lavalin Penal Hospital deal could not pass the smell test. It was untendered, secret, and guaranteed by Canadian taxpayers. And therein lies the root of the problem: secret, sole-sourced, subsidized deals arranged by the Canadian government for any company can't help but create an environment in which bribery, corruption, and conspiracy to defraud taxpayers and ratepayers thrives. Trinidad and Tobago lawmakers had the good sense to see that. Why can't the Canadian government?

**Editorial Note:** We thought Bermudians would be interested in the above article in light of the recent announcement by the Minister of Finance regarding the proposed partnership between the Bermuda Government and the Canadian Commercial Corporation.

# The Politics of Distraction

Certainly the main political focus of the OBA government in this recent bi-election period was to distract the voters from the real issues concerning this country and more importantly it's government policies which have been for the most part, anti-Bermudian in essence. If that has not been made clear over the almost two years of this government's role, it is now quite clear to most Bermudians who are concerned about their future and the future of their children.

That was the whole idea of the failed attempt on the part of its political operative, Toni Daniels, to savage the political reputation of the PLP political candidate for Constituency 33, Jamahl Simmons, who at any rate won the handedly and thereby returned the seat to its rightful political representative which was won under the PLP in 2012. But that seat was just one of two which went against the political wishes of the voters of two constituencies who had voted for their PLP candidates and not for a Speaker of the House under an OBA government, nor for the other to sit in Parliament as an independent.

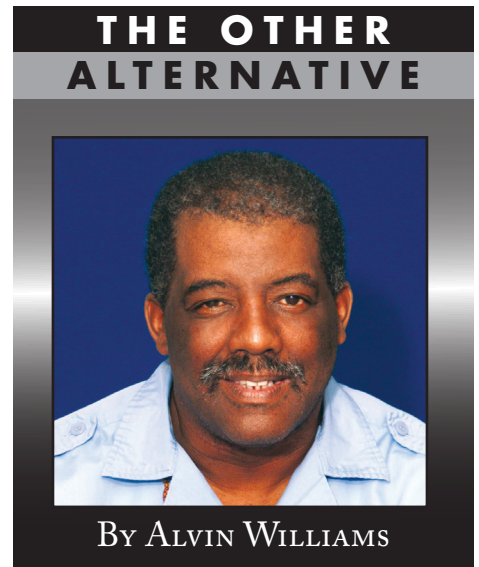
What was the other motivation of Toni Daniels to write that critical opinion of Jamahl Simmons? It certainly was not because Jamahl had been a member of the other political parties. That is not an issue because in Bermudian politics, politicians have always crossed the floor so to speak. A clear example of this was the recent Senate appointment made by the OBA government in choosing a person who had served as the Deputy Leader of the political branch of the Leader of the Opposition no less.

Up to that pint, Toni Daniels' failed attempt to undermine the PLP's candidate for the bi-election had gotten

her and her OBA party nowhere. There I would have left it even coming face to face with her. Now the Leader of the Opposition is fond of using metaphors in his political debate, which means in the dictionary description, a figure of speech, implied comparison which can take the form of allegory, image, symbolism to name a few descriptions, and it can be very effective in political debate.

As a political writer, I have often used metaphors to get my point across or to rebut a political argument. But it is most effective when it is used in a measured way. Now we see the Opposition Leader has been dragged into a briar patch and has left himself open to being accused of misogyny or hatred towards women. That is the dictionary term for it. Now, I don't believe that the Opposition Leader is afflicted by this term or mindset. He is married; he belongs to a political party whose political backbone is made up of women. I doubt if a political leader within the PLP would get away with anti-women feelings, even if it existed in certain areas of the Party in times gone by.

If this looks like implied criticism of the Opposition Leader, it is, for we should not give these people fuel to keep something going that has nothing to do with political or social situation Bermudians are facing. But it does point out one thing the OBA gov-



ernment is short on anything in the way of political or government policy that will benefit Bermudians.

The OBA opposition often accused the former PLP government of plunging Bermuda into a fiscal and budgetary deficit with overwhelming debt. But its policies have led to even more debt far higher than that which the former PLP government was accused of and worse, it has embarked on the building of a new airport which will be out of Bermuda's control for at least thirty years. Close to \$1 billion will go to the Canadian developers which will be contracted to build the airport that will cost \$2 million. You do the math. Who will benefit - Bermuda, or outside interests?

This is one of many important issues for Bermuda and therefore we cannot get balked down in the politics of distraction.

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# Gulf Countries: Increase Migrant Worker Protection

## Gulf, Asian Labor Ministers at 3rd Abu Dhabi Dialogue

Brussels, 23 November 2014 (ITUC OnLine) – Labor ministers from Gulf and Asian countries meeting on November 26 and 27, 2014, should improve labor law protection, reform abusive immigration policies, and increase dialogue with trade unions and nongovernmental groups, 90 human rights organizations and unions said today.

Millions of contract workers from Asia and Africa, including an estimated 2.4 million domestic workers in the Gulf, are subject to a wide range of abuses, including unpaid wages, confiscation of passports, physical abuse, and forced labor.

“Whether it’s the scale of abuse of domestic workers hidden from public view or the shocking death toll among construction workers, the plight of migrants in the Gulf demands urgent and profound reform,” said Rothna Begum, Middle East women’s rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. “This should include a thorough overhaul of the abusive kafala visa sponsorship system.”

The ministers will meet in the third round of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, an inter-regional forum on labor migration between Asian countries of origin and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries of destination. Nongovernmental groups participated in the first two rounds but were not invited to this year’s gathering. Labor ministers from the GCC states are to meet separately on November 23 to discuss a draft domestic workers contract and the proposed formation of a cross-GCC body to oversee migrant domestic work.

The kafala system, used to varying extents across the Gulf, restricts most workers from moving to a new job before their contracts end unless they obtain their employer’s consent, trapping many workers in abusive situations. Many migrant workers feel intense financial pressure not only to support their families at home but also to pay off huge debts incurred during recruitment. Poorly monitored labor recruitment agencies, in both the migrants’ countries of origin and in the destination Gulf states, often overcharge migrant workers, deceive them about their working conditions, or fail to assist them if they encounter workplace abuse.

In Saudi Arabia and Qatar, migrant workers cannot leave the country without obtaining their employer’s consent for an “exit permit” from the authorities. Some employers have refused to pay wages, return passports, or provide permission for “exit permits” in order to exact work from workers involuntarily.

A November analysis by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), “Facilitating Exploitation,” highlighted how gaps in national labor laws in GCC countries either partially or completely exclude domestic workers.

An October Human Rights Watch report, “I Already Bought You” and an April Amnesty International report, “My Sleep is My Break found common patterns of abuse against domestic workers in the United Arab Emirates and Qatar respectively, including unpaid wages, no rest periods, excessive workloads, food deprivation, and confinement in the workplace. In several cases, domestic workers reported

physical or sexual abuse and had been in situations of forced labor, including trafficking.

“The proposals made by GCC countries fall far short of the changes needed to protect domestic workers’ rights, safety, and dignity,” said Elizabeth Tang, general secretary of the International Domestic Workers Federation (IDWF). “GCC countries should join the growing number of countries worldwide that are extending full protection of their labor laws to domestic workers, including a minimum wage, a weekly rest day, the right to organize, and social benefits.”

The GCC has discussed a potential region-wide standard employment contract for domestic workers. Recent media reports suggest that the GCC is also considering establishing a body to coordinate policies on hiring domestic workers that would consist of recruitment agency and government representatives. These developments have lacked transparency and have suffered from inadequate consultation with migrant domestic workers, trade unions, and migrants’ rights organizations. Migrants’ countries of origin are also discussing their own standard contract through a separate process.

“Standard contracts are not a substitute for labor law reform, and taken alone do not meet the standards in the ILO Domestic Workers Convention”, said Sharan Burrow, general secretary of the ITUC. “The GCC should work in closer coordination with – not separately from – countries of origin to develop labor migration policies that fully respect the human and labor rights of migrants.” Migrants in the Gulf make an

# In The Grips of Disappointment

by E. McNeil Stovell

I never made it a point to beat up on my son when he did wrong. Why? Because I found more creative ways to punish him without using a belt or a piece of stick or anything on him physically, but not to worry, he knew he had been punished when I had gotten through with him. Trust me, today he is a 25-year old young man and I continue hearing people tell me what a nice boy he is when they meet him. I love my son, he's my only one, and he's all I have.

I mention the above to give you some idea why I joined the Progressive Labour Party. I was born poor in a poor neighbourhood and most of the people living around me were not much better off. From the very young age of four or five, my grandmother always had me sitting beside her and telling me all about the "Forty Thieves", after which I had no trouble looking around and understanding the situation in my neighbourhood and why Bermuda was the way that it was. Life for my family was hard and I knew what it was like to go without having anything to ease, or having decent clothes to wear, or living in poor conditions.

Things were so bad that I had to leave school to be able to feed myself, so I lost out on years of not receiving a good education, yet there were all types of people coming out of my neighbourhood and going out into the workforce. Some made it to great heights, as others did what they had to do in order to survive.

It was out of the smoke of the Pembroke Dump that I had come to answer my political calling, and I have never forgotten where I came from and just where my roots are: deep into the ground over a Marsh Folly. I not only joined the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) because I was told that it was the Party of the down-trodden and the poor, I joined the PLP mainly because I took the time to learn and understand why the PLP came into being and why I thought that the PLP should govern Bermuda. It was what the Party stood for and its historical past, which turned out to have been its core foundation that won me over.

I have supported the Progressive Labour Party since it came into existence way back in 1963 as Bermuda's first po-

litical party, even though I wasn't old enough to vote, and I have never looked back. Earlier this year I wrote an article where I had chastised the OBA because I thought it was they who had taken the Government Gazette away from the Bermuda and awarded it to the Royal Gazette, only to find out that it was far from the truth.

When I was told what really happened, I went into shock and was very disappointed. I could not believe my ears and I'm still finding it difficult to digest or process such hurting information in my poor little head. Why was I so disappointed? It was that I had found out that it was the PLP that gave it back to the Royal Gazette. The first thing to hit me was, why in hell's name would someone do that?

Understanding how the Royal Gazette has wasted no time trashing the PLP over the years, any one in their right mind would wonder what was going on in the minds of the leadership to even think to do that. Ask yourself this question, could that be one of the reasons why the Bermuda Sun had to close and has caused more people to join the ranks of the unemployed? Did the PLP really do that?

That's not the only thing about the PLP that has brought on such grouching disappointment. The very reasons why and how we lost the last election. With all the so-called educated people who were at the top of the PLP, I ask myself the question, "Where were the political skills and the political "teach-ocracy" needed to put workable strategy into place? It does not seem to have been there.

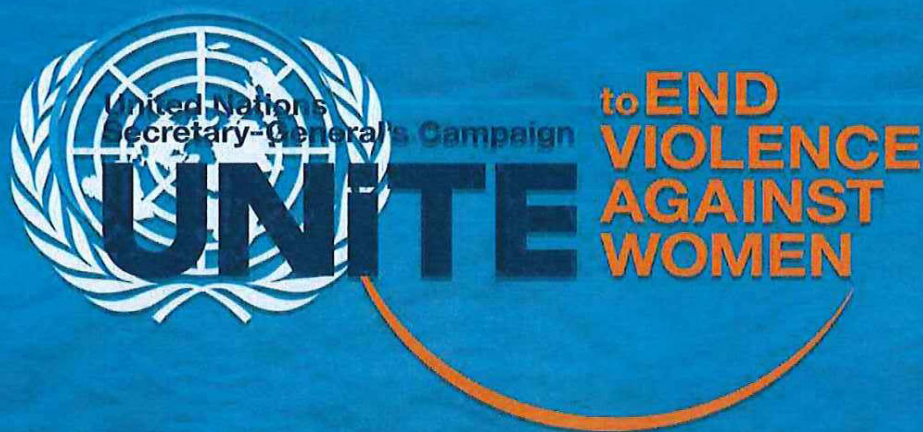
We could have still had control of the government if only we had taken advantage of the opportunity when it was right there as clear as day and in front of our eyes, but no, we thought it was a bad idea to kick them when they were down. How nice!

Does anyone remember the election of 1985, the then United Bermuda Party lead by Sir John Swan, took advantage of kicking the PLP when it became clear that the PLP were down and was in disarray (and yes, because of their own fault) called a snap election and chopped the PLP right in half. The UBP took the PLP from fourteen

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**A PROMISE IS  
A PROMISE**





# 25 NOVEMBER 2014

## INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Trade unions are mobilizing against discrimination and break the silence around violence at the workplace. United for social justice and against gender-based violence!

“Violence against women at work and in the public sector is not merely the problem of the women who suffer, but of all of us. Violence against women is violence against society as a whole. Violence is about power and has a background of cultural patterns that need to be changed” says Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary of Public Services International (PSI).

Public Services International brings together social workers, health, municipal workers and public administration: caregivers and service providers that are essential for a decent life for women and their families. For PSI, gender-based violence is a trade union issue, whether in the workplace, at home or in the community. The consequences are grim and include problems of physical and psychological health. Violence may impair the ability of women to participate in economic life, places a greater burden on public services and hinders social cohesion.

The global financial crisis and austerity policies have profound implications and a negative impact on the economic and social empowerment of women to achieve gender equality. Women face formidable challenges such as growing unemployment, the freeze of public service wages and cuts to pensions, childcare, maternity and other social benefits. The crisis in world

food production and climate change are also particularly harmful to women.

Public sector workers are well positioned to promote, implement and monitor the laws and regulations in support of gender equality and protection against violence and harassment. Even when laws are put in place, communities and especially women are often not aware of them. Together with civil society, trade unions develop, implement and promote strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls. The elimination of violence requires a strong intervention of public authorities to design and implement appropriate prevention measures in place to ensure legal protection and prosecution of cases, and to provide support and compensation for victims.

Juneia Batista, Chair of the PSI World Women's Committee says: “It is important for organizations to identify and address the underlying inequalities and abuse of power leading to discrimination and violence; organize demonstrations and events to raise awareness against discrimination and violence, and work on prevention and protection of victims of domestic violence in collective agreements.”

We call upon states to adequately fund and invest in quality public services that are accessible to women, especially women who are victims of violence. We also call on all governments to support a new ILO convention that addresses “Violence against women and men in the workplace”.

# Six myths about how the unions are ruining Britain

Don't believe everything you read about the trade unions – particularly if it's in the Daily Mail

The late Bob Crow of the RMT union. 'A 2011 poll showed that trade union leaders were more trusted by the public than bankers, business leaders, politicians and journalists.' Photograph: Martin Argles for the Guardian

The Daily Mail front page caught my eye yesterday: it announced that trade unions were now paying their members to go on strike. I confess to being almost impressed at that infernal organ's ability to alchemise scandals out of the prosaic, and it got me thinking about the other myths that are commonly peddled about trade unions. Let's have a look at six regulars, and give them a good old busting.

## Trade unions pay their members to go on strike

This is a new one on me, but given it made the headlines yesterday we may as well kick off with it. Union members get their pay docked when they go on strike. They are exercising a right to withdraw labour, not a right to get paid for taking a day off work. It's why the miners' strike ended – the miners just couldn't live without a wage any more. The Daily Mail is referring to a union's strike fund, which is used to try to prevent members getting into financial difficulties as a result of losing pay when they go on strike. Going on strike is a human right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and unions are entitled to use funds to make up for the lost earnings that striking members face. It's rather different to the Mail implying that teachers face some kind of cash bonanza from taking industrial action. Incidentally, the General Secretary of the Public and Commercial Services union, Mark Serwotka, donated £80,000 of his

own money to his union's strike fund after the executive voted against his offer to take a lower salary. Those bloody union barons, eh?

## Unions are free to strike at the drop of a hat

Believe it or not, this country has the most restrictive trade union laws in the western world. When strikes do happen, they're the result of a failure of negotiations, not commie militants looking for a conflict. Remember the oil tanker drivers' strike in 2012? That was called after 18 months of intransigence from the employer – not that you would know that from the papers.

## Unions are destroying the economy

This particular myth comes in two forms: the first is that unions hold the country to ransom by threatening to strike. Remember Francis Maude's stupid advice to fill up a jerry can when it looked like oil tanker drivers would go on strike? The government, flanked by the press, like to stir up panic whenever a strike looks like it's on the cards. But the truth is that unions are legally compelled to give seven days' notice to an employer before they ballot their members over a strike. Unions are not "threatening" anything when they tell employers they're going to find out how their members feel about striking; they're just following trade union law. There may be circumstances where it is better for unions to ballot members confidentially (like if negotiations are under way and the possibility of a strike might cause tensions) but we'll never know, because the law doesn't allow it.

The second form of this myth is the idea that, for some unknowable reason, unions are inherently bad for the econ-

omy. Given that over the last four years, unions have been making the restrained demand for jobs and economic growth, I'm not sure why so many media commentators are convinced they're out to destroy society. Nevertheless, as many publications show, there is a strong correlation between strong trade unions, low inequality and thriving economies. Strong collective bargaining agreements can also reduce the gender pay gap.

## Unions just organise strikes

Unions do lots of other things too. For example, the TUC has an impressive Union Learn programme which trains people in workplaces. In 2012, TUC Education provided education and training for more than 52,000 union reps. Unite the Union helps domestic workers, often living in very difficult circumstances, to learn English and IT so that they can communicate with their families in their home countries and live a better life in the UK. All the major unions support social justice causes internationally. In fact, it was thanks to the union movement that I started writing about Latin America, after I attended a trade union conference where I learned that more than 2,000 human rights defenders and activists had been assassinated in Colombia since the 1980s.

## The government is subsidising trade union activity

It was unsurprising to many working in the trade union movement that the moment the Tories came to power in 2010, this particular myth started doing the rounds. In 2011, the TaxPayers' Alliance (TPA) published research stating that taxpayers paid £113m to trade unions.

The myth refers to "facility time", the time given to union reps to do certain

continued on next page

# Six myths about how the unions are ruining Britain

continued from page 8

activities on behalf of their union, without having their pay docked. These include negotiating with employers over pay and conditions, representing workers in grievance and disciplinary procedures, providing training, doing health and safety work and attending training sessions themselves. As many union reps work in the public sector, the TPA categorised this as “unions being subsidised by the government”.

Actually I'm not going to dispute the TPA's research, I'm just going to add some extra information. Research by the Labour party shows that when you include the private sector, facility time costs £431m annually. But it also showed

that facility time saves anything from £476m to £1.1bn. That's a reflection of savings made from fewer tribunals, sick days, accidents and dismissals, as well as higher productivity. And perhaps that is why no employers have made any serious calls for an end to facility time, even though David Cameron promised to “put a stop to it”.

## The unions do nothing for ordinary people

Actually this one's true. Except for paid holidays, the eight-hour day, paid sick leave, bringing an end to child labour, fighting for equal pay, better health and safety regulation, fighting workplace

discrimination, the unions have done absolutely nothing.

I suspect the biggest myth of all is that the public hate unions. Anyone who has interacted with a union in their workplace can see the benefits. Perhaps that's why a 2011 poll showed that trade union leaders were more trusted by the public than bankers, business leaders, politicians and – lamentably for the Daily Mail – journalists. Well now, isn't that the funniest thing.

*Editor's Note:* While this article refers to trade unions in the United Kingdom, many of the myths listed are also held by Bermudians.

## In The Grips of Disappointment

seats right down to seven seats, the worse flogging I think we had ever had at the polls. And to think after all this time it doesn't seem as if anyone around at Alaska Hall after all those years has learned from that great lesson as yet. I don't think so.

Not too long after the last election, I saw Sir John in town one day and I walked up to him and grabbed his hand and gave it a good shake. I said to him, “I want to thank you Sir John for teaching me such a great lesson back in 1985.

It was every painful when you dished it out, nonetheless you taught me what it is meant to be a real politician and knowing when to strike when the iron was white hot”.

It was a time of turmoil in the PLP and it caused so much discontent not just within the PLP, but with most of its supporters as well, that they not only did not come out and support the Party, they may have also even changed their vote against the Party.

Let me end by saying this. I have

never supported the UBP at any poll, but I must say this, one must recognize political skill when you see it. The UBP was handed a sweet gift by the PLP and Sir John seeing that it would strengthen his mandate, he took advantage of the opportunity and snatched the chance before the PLP could wake up and see what was happening. I say again, have any lessons been learned at Alaska Hall. Only time will tell, and yes, I'm very disappointed.

continued from page 7

## Two Wrongs Don't Make A Right

While I practically eat and sleep politics, I know that not every Bermudian is as passionate as I am about politics, however I do feel duty bound to share my knowledge with others, hence the explanations above. While many have criticized to the Opposition Leader publicly, I will make it known here that I consider Marc Bean as a son, in fact, he refers to me as “Moms”. I will never criticize my other sons

publicly, but that is not to say that I don't take them to task when I am not happy with a decision that they have made. And that is what I do when it comes to the Opposition Leader, or any other PLP Member of Parliament for that matter.

In my opinion, Marc Bean's comments with regards to Toni Daniels were no more offensive than Toni Daniels' comment about Jamahl Simmons, and no, two

wrongs don't make a right, but the truth should be told as I see it.

By the way, where was the OBA's outrage and disgust at the vile comments made by Senator Lynn Woolridge at the Polling Station after the results of the election were announced. Is the OBA saying that it's okay for woman to verbally attack and man, but not the other way around?

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# 150 Students Highlighted at Commissioner's Vision Awards Ceremony



The inaugural Commissioner's Vision Awards ceremony, sponsored by Bermuda Cablevision, was held at 6pm Wednesday, November 19th in the Berkeley Institute cafetorium to officially acknowledge a total of 150 students for their leadership qualities.

Approximately 86 recipients were in attendance on the night wearing their school uniforms, with many also proudly displaying their Commissioner's Vision Award medals presented to them at their schools by senior police officers during October's Police Week 2014.

the CEO of Bermuda Cablevision Mr. Terry Roberson and the Commissioner of Police Mr. Michael DeSilva each made congratulatory remarks, while the Commissioner also emphasized the importance of the seven core values in everyday life.

Five awardees were nominated by each of the participating public as well as private primary, middle and senior schools for exemplifying the Bermuda Police Service core values of *Professionalism, Integrity, Respect, Accountability, Dedication, Courage and Unity*.

The students' enthusiastic families also filled the cafetorium to cheer on their loved ones.

Prior to the announcement of each participating school and all their awardees,

Light refreshments were provided following the conclusion of the formal proceedings with police officers, including Commissioner DeSilva and his senior command team, remaining to pose for additional photos and interact with those in attendance.



# What the Minister of Finance, E. T. “Bob” Richards Had to Say<sup>continued from page 1</sup>

impression to be consistent with the brand that Bermuda presents to the world and that brand can be summed up as, “First Tier, First Class, First World.” That is the brand we want to convey, whether the traveler is arriving for business or leisure. Certainly the current terminal building, with sections dating back to the 1940’s, does not convey that branded message.

The new terminal will show the arriving passenger that he/she has entered a country that is indeed First Tier, First Class and First World. The new terminal will create a buzz in tourism circles and substantially enhance the airport terminal experience for the travelling public. For Bermudians, it will not only bring jobs, but it will engender a sense of pride, reaffirming our sense of self-esteem for our island’s unique qualities as a tiny but first world nation.

For visitors, it will reinforce the island’s status as a successful and sophisticated up-market tourism destination as well as a leading international business centre.

Mr. Speaker, a key and novel component of this project and the reason I announced this signing instead of one of my colleagues, is the financing component. The fact is this project would have probably gone ahead long ago if funding were available for it. But with Government running large annual deficits and debt soaring, a new airport terminal had been impossible; - Until now.

Having carefully considered all its options, Government has decided to avail itself of a novel procurement model offered by way of an arrangement with the Canadian Commercial Corporation. CCC is wholly owned by the Government of Canada. The proposed transaction will take the form of a type of public private partnership, (P3), a model that will allow Bermuda to build, use and eventually take possession of the most modern of facilities for civil aviation,

without any burden on the Bermuda treasury.

Some of the benefits to using the CCC approach to redevelop the Airport are as follows:

This model cuts the procurement time dramatically, enabling shovels to be in the ground and jobs created much sooner than traditional methods.

This model significantly reduces the cost of procurement.

The new terminal will be customized to Bermuda’s needs.

CCC will guarantee that the project will be delivered on time and on budget. There will be a Canadian infrastructure developer. CCC will conduct its own due diligence to be satisfied that the Canadian developer has the technical, financial and managerial capability to deliver on the contract.

The transactional approach will not require any initial expenditure for the airport by Bermuda, and with no new debt for Bermuda;

The model demands total transparency, adhering to international best practices; in fact, as I have already mentioned, we will ensure that there will be no recourse to the balance sheet of the Bermuda government, direct or contingent.

Our intention is that the financing will rely mostly on the future revenue streams from the new airport itself.

Mr. Speaker, we will also benefit from the uncompromising standards, world class experience and expertise of CCC. Established in 1946, CCC, a federal crown corporation, was mandated to facilitate international trade on behalf of Canadian industry, particularly within government markets.

CCC will select a Canadian Developer from its already preselected stable of Canadian firms. This company will enter into a contract and Concession Agreement with the Bermuda Airport Authority to develop and manage the

project. Title to the airport and adjacent property will remain in Government hands. This will be the core of our unique P3 arrangement.

This company will maximize local employment in subcontracting opportunities in the selection of contracting firms to actually carry out the work on the ground. The vast majority of these subcontracting companies will be local Bermudian firms employing local labour.

Mr. Speaker, we will be engaging an independent construction firm to review the project model in all its aspects to formally verify that Bermuda is getting value for money from this arrangement. This structure, which is tried and tested in other countries, has a number of reduction advantages:

reducing the risk and expense of procurement,  
reducing the risk of budget overruns,  
Reducing the risk of late delivery,  
Reducing the risk to the Bermuda Government treasury and balance sheet,  
Reducing unemployment in our island  
and validating value for money issues.

It is a winning formula on all fronts. Mr. Speaker, we are now at the start of a long and complex process with many milestones along the way. The next important milestone will be a Go-No-Go decision, and assuming it’s a Go, the final construction contract and a facility management service Agreement (and related financing arrangements), which will govern all aspects of the project, will be developed and concluded. At that time the final costs and design features will have been ironed out.

There are few options to create jobs by way of infrastructure projects, for a government that already has high debt, and is adding to it annually by running deficits. The traditional way of financing such projects would surely increase government debt. In collaboration with

<sup>continued on page 15</sup>



## What the Shadow Minister of Finance, David Burt Had to Say continued from page 1

privatisation of Bermuda's Airport for at least 30 years.

- The OBA will be handing over, at minimum, revenues from the Department of Airport Operations and Airport Departure Taxes to the privatised operator of the airport. These revenues today stand at \$25.2 million annually and over 30 years with historical inflation would total over \$1 billion.
- That officials from the Bermuda government have been in "close consultation" with their counterparts in Quito, Ecuador for at least the last 5 months, studying the newly built and privatised Quito International Airport.
- The Quito Airport was backed by the Canadian Commercial Corpo-

ration and is privatised and operated by a consortium led by the Canadian construction firm the OBA plans to bring to Bermuda. The concessionary agreement which led to the privatisation in Quito is for 35 years.

- The Minister of Finance stated to Parliament that CCC was the "only option available" and the "best deal for Bermuda", despite the fact that there was no public tender to receive any additional proposals.

The fact that the Dunkley Administration is looking to enter into a concessionary agreement, which will result in the privatisation of the L. F. Wade International Airport, should concern all Bermudians. The fact that the OBA Cabinet is willing to forgo over \$1 Billion of future revenues without a fair,

open, and transparent tender process is a slap in the face to good governance.

The Bermudian people deserve better than privatisation through the back door without a tender process; they deserve a tendering process that ensures the people of Bermuda know they are getting the best deal. That end can only be accomplished via an open and transparent tendering process that allows any interested party to submit proposals so that Bermuda can chart the best way forward for our people.

We again urge the government to practice the principles of good governance and engage in a fair, open, and competitive tender process for any redevelopment of the L. F. Wade International Airport. A billion dollars of future revenue deserves no less.

## Gulf Countries: Increase Migrant Worker Protection Gulf, Asian Labor Ministers at 3rd Abu Dhabi Dialogue continued from page 6

important contribution both to the economies of their own countries and those of the countries where they work. In 2011, migrant workers in GCC countries sent home more than US\$60 billion in remittances. Competition for jobs among the workers' countries of origin, combined with their relative lack of bargaining power in relation to the labor-destination countries, means that the pressure they exert for better labor protections is weak.

"The meetings over the next few days provide a key opportunity to promote regional minimum standards that would avoid a counterproductive race to the bottom in labor conditions," said William Gois of Migrant Forum Asia. "The governments should develop a concrete action plan, in consultation with migrant workers themselves and the organizations that represent them, with benchmarks to monitor its progress."

Kuwait University Law School will host an event on November 23, 2014, at which panelists from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, IDWF, the ITUC, and Migrant Forum Asia will discuss the rights of migrant domestic workers.

The groups recommend that the governments:

- \* Establish and enforce comprehensive labor law protections for migrant workers, including domestic workers;
- \* Reform the kafala (sponsorship) visa system to ensure that workers can change employers without being required to first obtain their consent;
- \* Remove the "exit permit" requirement in Saudi Arabia and Qatar
- \* Strengthen regulation and monitoring of labor recruitment agencies, including eliminating recruitment fees for workers;

- \* Ensure that migrants have access to justice and support services; and

- \* Expand the Abu Dhabi Dialogue to include labor-origin countries from Africa, such as Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya, and participation by nongovernmental groups.

Governments should ratify and implement international labor and human rights standards, the groups said. These include the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers, the ILO Forced Labor Protocol, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

The first round of the Abu Dhabi Dialogue was hosted by the United Arab Emirates in 2008 and the second meeting was held in Manila in 2012.



# What the Minister of Finance, E. T. "Bob" Richards Had to Say continued from page 13

CCC, our unique P3 model will enable Bermuda to create significant jobs for Bermudians without putting the government further into debt.

Mr. Speaker I can confirm that we have received the appropriate Entrustment Letter from Her Majesty's Government in the UK to move forward with the project, despite the fact that a recent legal opinion established that a separate Entrustment was not necessary. I can also confirm that we have

already consulted with the Accountant General, who is responsible for Financial Instructions, and have received the required approval to move forward with the engagement of CCC. However Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that no contracts have been issued for any works, and that prior to any contractors being brought on board, this Government will establish the procurement parameters with CCC based on best practices. We will no doubt share this information

with the general public.

Mr. Speaker, based on the above mentioned benefits, the Ministry of Finance is confident that this unique alternative of contracting with the CCC is the appropriate model to be used for the redevelopment of the Airport. This approach will provide the Government with a timely, efficient and trustworthy alternative.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.



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## Workforce Development and BIU Join Forces

The joint venture between the Department of Workforce Development and the Bermuda Industrial Union held on Thursday, November 27, 2014 where unemployed Bermudians could register with the Bermuda Job Board was extremely successful. Long before 9:00 a.m. there was a line of people waiting to register and to learn more about the Bermuda Job Board.

BIU President, Brother Chris Furbert, Mr. George Outerbridge, Director of



Workforce Development and Mrs. Judy Teart, Career Development Manager at the Department of Workforce Development, gave introductory remarks prior to the applicants completed the process at the various computer stations. Mrs. Teart said that over seventy-five applicants signed up throughout the morning. The event was held between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Sweeting-Ball Memorial Hall.

# THANKSGIVING (US)

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid. The remaining 26 letters spell a popular Thanksgiving Day event.

M	A	C	P	I	L	G	R	I	M	S	P	A	R	A	D	E
S	M	A	Y	S	W	E	E	T	P	O	T	A	T	O	Y	N
G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G	S	H	T	H	G	A	O	S
D	N	P	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	F	R	N	I	C	E
O	S	U	C	K	S	N	S	L	G	E	A	O	N	R	L	O
O	T	M	I	E	R	E	I	V	S	V	I	U	A	A	D	T
F	U	P	I	O	L	D	V	T	Y	T	E	N	U	N	G	A
R	F	K	C	N	A	E	I	I	I	R	B	N	E	N	A	T
I	F	I	Y	Y	O	V	B	D	T	E	N	K	G	H	O	O
E	I	N	D	A	A	V	A	R	R	A	E	A	Y	T	N	P
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S	Y	E	K	R	U	T	R	G	B	A	I	E	R	M	M	H
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	N	U	V	E	A	O	E	Y	A	S
H	S	A	U	Q	S	O	U	E	H	S	R	A	N	L	W	A
R	F	A	M	I	L	Y	L	A	T	T	L	A	D	P	E	M

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AUTUMN  
CELEBRATION  
CORN  
CRANBERRY  
FAMILY  
FEAST  
FESTIVAL  
FOOD  
FOOTBALL  
FRIENDS  
GATHERING

GRAVY  
HARVEST  
HOLIDAY  
LONG WEEKEND  
MASHED POTATOES  
MEAL  
NOVEMBER  
PARADE  
PILGRIMS  
PLYMOUTH  
PUMPKIN PIE

RELATIVES  
REUNION  
SQUASH  
STUFFING  
SWEET POTATO  
THURSDAY  
TRADITION  
TRAVEL  
TURKEY  
WAMPANOAG  
YAMS

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