



# Bermuda Industrial Union

49 Union Square, Hamilton  
Bermuda HM-12

Telephone: (441) 292-0044  
Fax: (441)295-7992. E-Mail: [biu@biu.bm](mailto:biu@biu.bm)

Contact: Chris Furbert  
Tel. 292-0044  
E-mail: [cfurbert@biu.bm](mailto:cfurbert@biu.bm)

## **BIU President: No Open Dialogue with Minister Fahy**

Allow me to begin this press conference by referring to Senator The Hon. Michael M. Fahy's statement in the Bermuda Sun on January 4, 2013 in which he is quoted as saying that "he pledged to work with the unions to help ensure the economy moved in the right direction". The Minister went on to say later in that article "I will be having an open dialogue with the unions".

The open dialogue that the Minister promised in the article is not so open. Let me explain why.

The BIU, along with one our sister Unions were represented on the Immigration Board in 2012. However, the Minister has decided that the BIU will not be represented on the Immigration Board in 2013, although our sister union is still has representation on that board. So you need to ask the question is this personal against to BIU?

On January 9, 2013 The Permanent Arbitration Tribunal members were gazette in the Official Gazette. You may ask what is concerning about that. The BIU firmly believes that Minister Fahy in making that appointment is in violation of the Labour Relations Act 1975.

The Labour Relations Act 1975 clearly states under section 14 (4) that "The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal shall hold office for a period of three years, and be reappointed from time to time for a like period": and section 14 (5) reads "The members on the panel shall hold office for a period of two years, and be reappointed from time to time for a like period":

In is my understanding that there members of the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal who have not served out their term and the Minister has removed them with consultation with them.

But what is most concerning about the appointment of the Permanent Arbitration Tribunal is that under section 14 (2) which reads “Before exercising his powers under subsection (1) the Minister shall consult such trade unions or other organizations as appear to him to be representative of the views of the employers and workmen in Bermuda”.

I can tell you the Bermuda Industrial Union was not consulted and I have spoken to one of our sister unions and I have been assured that they were not consulted either. So where is the open dialogue with the unions that the Minister promised would take place? Once again the BIU firmly believes that the Minister in violation of the Labour Relations Act 1975.