

OBA MPs' statements on the transition in Leadership

Patricia Gordon-Pamplin MP:

"Any member of our team has the ability to lead as we are committed to advancing the people's agenda. We will coalesce as a team and continue our work towards ensuring that our constitutional responsibility of holding the Government to account is met and, more importantly, ensuring that the representation that we give to our constituents in particular, and Bermuda in general, is upheld."

Susan Jackson MP:

"As Leader, Jeanne Atherden actively mentored colleagues and demonstrated succession planning in preparation for the next generation.

She is appreciated for her untiring commitment to public service."

Scott Pearman MP:

"Jeanne Atherden led the Party during a difficult time and deserves our thanks for her resolve.

Yet the difficulties our Island faces require fresh thinking.

This leadership change demonstrates the desire for reform in our party. The OBA must offer a political alternative – particularly with the current PLP Government treading-water in a rising sea.

The OBA Government did many good things. Where would Bermuda be today if the OBA had not tackled the disastrous economy caused by years of PLP mismanagement?

Yet today's OBA must also recognise where the former Government fell short, particularly on social issues. These must be addressed if Bermuda is to succeed. Competence alone is not enough. We need to forge a new unity for all Bermudians. We need to bring people together if we are to solve our problems.

Craig Cannonier is an energetic and dynamic leader. He has a solid vision where Bermuda needs to go, and how we can get there. He brings people together and offers hope. This is why the majority of OBA MPs chose to support his leadership - so that we can work together to make a positive difference for all Bermudians."

Sylvan Richards MP:

"MP Cannonier has the leadership qualities that make him the best suited to lead the OBA as we rebuild and refocus.

The country deserves a viable and robust opposition that will be a government in waiting.

I thank MP Atherden for her leadership of the OBA through a very challenging period."

N. H. Cole Simons MP:

"Firstly, I would like to thank the Hon. Jeanne Atherden, for her commitment, dedication and hard work. It has not gone unnoticed and is appreciated.

Fourteen months after the July 2017 election, the party has yet to regain the momentum, energy and cohesiveness required to be an effective and sustainable party.

It is time to regroup, refocus, reaffirm our vision, and craft a blue print that will take this country forward.

We need a cohesive party that is operating on all of its cylinders, and positions Bermuda and her people to be the best that they can be socially and economically. We also need to be the tool that will do its best to help Bermuda be at peace with itself."

Ben Smith MP:

"I think that it is important that we thank Jeanne Atherden for stepping up to the leadership role when she did, but change in direction and focus was needed at this time.

Bermuda is in a critical period where we need to have a focus on our future and the direction that we will take to see success for everyone in Bermuda.

The leadership change was necessary and supported by a core of OBA MPs that see a path to helping Bermuda to future success. We need to reform internally so that we can build a stronger party that can work towards a vision for a Bermuda that works for everyone with all hands-on deck.

For the many successes that the OBA government had in their tenure there were too many people that felt left out. The focus on the economy had to be the priority with a country on the brink but there needs to be support and guidance for the population that is hurting and real solution for improvement.

Craig Cannonier has shown enthusiasm towards the task ahead. He has a deep-rooted belief in the community and the inclusion of all. At a time that there is so much division worldwide we need to have a vision of how we can bring all our community together so that everyone is involved in our future success."