



Ministerial Statement
By
Senator, The Hon. Michael M. Fahy, JP
Minister of Home Affairs

Wednesday, June 17, 2015

**Bermudian Status Applications - 20B(2)(b); Provision of
Administrative Services by KPMG**

Madam President, I stand today to provide an update on the processing of Bermudian Status applications under section 20B(2)(b) of the Bermuda Immigration and Protection Act 1956. Bermudian status applications are processed by the Personal Services Section of the Department of Immigration.

Madam President, Senate members will no doubt recall that on February 18, 2015, I provided an update on these same applications. In that Ministerial Statement, I mentioned that the Department of Immigration had, to date, received a total of 620 applications and that only 70 applications received a decision. Presently, the total number of applications received has climbed to approximately 700 and the number of decisions has climbed to a total of 100. In February, I also mentioned that The Department of Immigration was considering structural changes, perhaps with the addition of help from within Government to manage the over-abundance of applications. While some structural changes have taken place in the Personal Services Section, such changes have only marginally impacted the

processing of the 20B(2)(b) applications and enlisting help from within Government has been challenging.

Madam President, in late March 2015, I was approached by Mike Morrison (Head of KPMG Advisory) and Neil Patterson (Chairman of KPMG Bermuda) with an offer to provide administrative services on a pro bono basis to assist with processing the 20B(2)(b) applications. Project Manager, Ms. Lori Rockhead of KPMG was referred to the Chief Immigration Officer and since April, the two parties have worked together to identify the terms of reference for the provision of services. I am pleased to advise that the Engagement Letter was signed on June 12, 2015.

Madam President, KPMG identified five (5) Staff Accountants and one (1) Audit Senior (all are graduate students working on their CPAs) who could be seconded to the Department of Immigration each for a period of 3 to 6 weeks between June 16, 2015 to August 28, 2015. The proposed secondees are all Bermudian, as required by the Department of Immigration. The secondees, who will report directly to the Personal Services Manager, include:

1. Scott Nearon
2. Jarryd Ray
3. Jozelle Escolastica
4. Bradley Mitchell
5. Dayshalae Smith
6. Scott Higgins

Madam President, it is anticipated that a total of approximately 1,500 hours of work will be undertaken throughout the engagement period. The secondees will be stationed at the Department of Immigration (4 will start on June 16, 2015). Their primary responsibilities will cover:

- Reviewing application files for completeness;

- Contacting applicants or their legal advisors to obtain outstanding information to complete the application; and
- Assisting with any associated tasks required to prepare complete applications (i.e. naturalisation, police reports, advertising, etc.) for review by technical staff and for a decision by the Minister.

Madam President, progress updates will be considered on a weekly basis between the Department of Immigration and KPMG. It is anticipated that by August 28, 2015, most, if not all, 20B(2)(b) applications will have been vetted for completeness with steady submissions by applicants for outstanding information being submitted in a timely manner. It is anticipated that the work of the secondees will give the technical officers a real push to move the applications along for a decision, thereby closing the process.

Madam President, I am grateful to KPMG for this notable offer to assist the Department of Immigration. Of significance is that the services will be at no cost to the Government. Not only will the Department of Immigration be better poised to complete the 20B(2)(b) Bermudian status applications but the secondees will most assuredly find the opportunity rewarding; they will be exposed to unique administrative processes and will gain knowledge in the interpretation of legislation and how that legislation connects with policies and procedures.

Thank you, Madam President.