



**Government of Bermuda
Ministry of Labour**

Senate

Ministerial Statement

MINISTRY OF LABOUR: THRONE SPEECH
INITIATIVES 2021

Presented by

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Junior Minister of Labour

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INTRODUCTION

Madame President;

As stated in the 2021 Speech from the Throne, and in line with Bermuda's Economic Recovery Plan, the Ministry of Labour will focus its efforts on introducing a digitised immigration application process and the implementation of the Youth Employment Strategy.

Digitised Immigration Application Processes

Madame President;

The Government will implement a digitised immigration application process that directly aligns with the core immigration reform strategic

priority to leverage technology to improve operations, leading to greater levels of efficiency, process consistency, and sustainability.

The Department of Immigration is tasked with optimising core processes and modernising existing systems, including a rigorous process reengineering review on the services offered by the Department with the goal to:

- Eliminate the excessive use of paper;
- Reduce the volume of data entry;
- Increase turnaround times;
- Provide analytical and performance data;
- Improve customer and stakeholder communications;
- Provide a platform for auditing and quality management; and
- Eliminate the submission of incomplete applications.

The Ministry of Labour will enhance Bermuda's competitive edge by introducing a digitised immigration application process to improve the delivery of services and ensure that the existing manual immigration process does not hinder the specialised talent required to grow Bermuda's economy further.

Youth Employment Strategy

Madame President;

The November 2020 Labour Force Survey Report placed the youth unemployment rate for persons 16 to 26 years of age at over 32 per cent. To put this in perspective, one in three young persons of working age are unemployed.

The Youth Employment Strategy is meant to meet the identified needs of unemployed persons between the ages of 18-26 and guide unemployed Bermudian youth to employment or to return to the work workforce. This

Government is committed to developing a resilient workforce that provides a sustainable and stable community by supporting training and helping to facilitate employment for all young people.

To that end, The Department of Workforce Development is working to implement a Youth Employment Strategy which aims to prepare Bermuda's youth for the world of work, positioning them to prepare for and take advantage of job opportunities. The strategy aims to:

- Facilitate access to training and employment opportunities for Bermuda's youth;
- Encourage Bermuda's youth to take advantage of available training opportunities;
- Provide career guidance and resources for Bermuda's youth;
- Support access to work experience opportunities such as internships, training and apprenticeships;
- Motivate Bermuda's youth to develop the highest level of proficiency in their chosen field;

- Promote training and employment opportunities locally before resorting to overseas recruitment; and
- Ensure that qualified and competent young people are provided opportunities for development and growth to support promotion within their chosen careers.

Young people's economic success is rooted in their ability to secure a sustainable livelihood through productive work. Participating in Bermuda's workforce will empower and enable our young people to contribute to Bermuda's growth and prosperity.

CONCLUSION

Madame President;

The people of Bermuda have entrusted this Government to lead, and the initiatives featured in the Speech from the Throne will form part of the

Ministry of Labour's priorities over the next year. Over the last 18 months, it has become clear that we cannot continue to do things in the way we have always done them. We must continue working together and using lessons learned from our past as well as the current crisis if we are to ensure the future well-being of Bermuda.

Through our National Economic Recovery Plan, the Government will take decisive action to restore consumer and business confidence and to stimulate our economy, creating a clear path to growth and employment. The policies highlighted today aid Bermuda in minimising the adverse effects of the global pandemic.

Thank you Madame President.