



Serving the People



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2023 Throne Speech
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Speech *from the* Throne

2023 THRONE SPEECH AT A GLANCE

The theme of this year's Throne Speech is "Serving the People". The government is committed to service, improving efficiencies and putting the people first. Here is a quick snapshot of the initiatives planned for the upcoming legislative session:

Ministry of Finance

- The Cost of Living Commission will be tasked with identifying additional essential commodities to be added to the Schedule of their Act, thereby reducing customs duty that can provide price reductions of those goods to the consumer.
- The establishment of a new Tax Reform Commission will fulfil the Government's commitment to examine existing taxes and make recommendations for the changes necessary to reduce the cost of living and the cost of doing business in Bermuda.
- The Legislature will take under consideration the regulations necessary to regulate excessive fees charged for banking services.
- Corporate Income Tax Bill to implement the Global Minimum Tax agreement in Bermuda. This will incorporate specific Qualified Refundable Tax Credits to provide incentives for investment into Bermuda's economy from companies who will be subject to the new Global Minimum Tax.
- The Legislature will take under consideration a Digital Identity Service Provider Act to lay the foundation for the emergence of a RegTech industry here in Bermuda, as we continue to lead the world in providing a platform for digital innovation in financial services.

Ministry of Health

- The Ministry of Health will undertake the STEPS 2024 population health survey to provide that evidence and establish public health priorities, tracking the trends and magnitude of these risk factors, and leading the fight to prevent chronic non-communicable diseases.
- The Legislature will consider the promised Bill to support data collection to control medical "co-pays".





Ministry of Economy and Labour

- The Government will lead as an employer and reform the approach to recruitment to ensure that where a disabled person can perform a role with modifications at home, they can work.
- The Government will advance its vision of a thriving City of Hamilton through the creation of a new economic empowerment zone in Southeast Hamilton with amendments to the Economic Development Act.
- The Government will also provide benefits to businesses that retain able-bodied, capable workers beyond age 65. These changes will retain the workforce we have while other efforts are committed to growing the Island's economy, creating more jobs that support an increased working population.

Ministry of National Security

- The Government has mandated an increase in threat detection, as well as enhanced security training for public officers.
- Joint Select Committee of both Houses to inquire into and make recommendations arising from September's cyber-attack.
- The Legislature will take under consideration a Cybersecurity Bill, the draft of which will be amended to reflect recommended statutory strengthening required in the wake of the cyber-attack on the Bermuda Government.
- Island-wide CCTV project provides the platform for more rigid enforcement of traffic laws, promoting safer driving and safer road use.
- The Ministry of National Security, in partnership with the Ministry of Education, will implement a Uniformed Services Cadet Training Programme, providing foundational training for young women and men of school age, preparing them for careers in Bermuda's uniformed services.

Ministry of Public Works

- Affordable housing for Bermudians.
- Infrastructure upgrades including a new asphalt plant.



Ministry of Education

- The Government will continue the work of education reform through the establishment of the transition teams for the next two Parish Primary Schools, earmarked for Elliot Primary and Harrington Sound Primary, and the next signature programme in hospitality and tourism and education services, earmarked for Sandys Secondary Middle School.
- Creation of an Education Authority.



Ministry of Transport

- Equitable approach to permitting, licensing and operation, with the goal of ensuring that our residents and visitors have access to transportation services that they expect in 2023 and providing Bermuda's taxi operators their first fare increase.
- Introduction of digital fares.

Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sports

- We will introduce 'makerspaces' as an effective means by which to provide collaborative workspaces within existing buildings. These spaces will incorporate technology and tools to enable artists and creatives to hone their crafts, and will extend to musicians and actors, filmmakers and other visual artists.



Ministry of Youth, Social Development and Seniors

- To build on the success of the Independent Living Programme, the Ministry of Social Development and Seniors will extend the services provided to those young people from starting at age of 18 to 17.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Seniors will develop a five-year strategic plan to combat domestic abuse, mitigate against its familial and societal impacts and promote the safety of children and families experiencing this trauma.
- The Legislature will consider amendments to the Adoption of Children Act 2006 to make provision for greater safeguards against abuses of adoption processes that result in outcomes not in the best interests of children.
- The Government will introduce for the consideration of the Legislature a Homelessness Strategy for Bermuda to meet the challenge of homelessness by working with private sector partners.