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**HEALTH
CARE**



The PUP is ready for day one in government to aggressively confront the present COVID-19 pandemic which is a catastrophe of the 21st century. We are not grieving or dwelling on it except to point out the failures and shortcomings of the present administration.

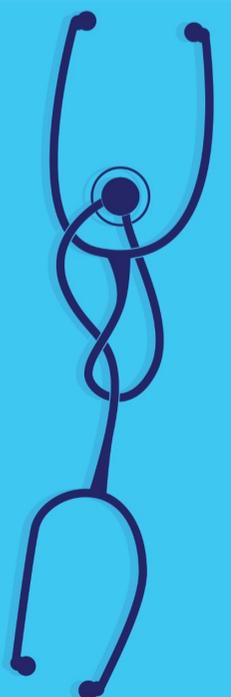
John Briceño | Leader of the People's United Party

Belize has a population of close to 400,000 people with a health system characterized by poor accessibility, poor quality and unaffordable health services. The average life expectancy is estimated at 72 years for males and 74 years for females, and specific indicators demonstrate there is ample room for improvement. Our population is mostly young, with 35.6 percent under the age of 15 years and 53.7 percent over 20 years of age, The elderly (60 years of age or older) only account for 6 percent of the total population.

A snapshot of our current state of our nation's health shows that infant mortality is at 12.8 per 1,000 with higher mortality rates in the southern region of the country and there is an increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes type 2, heart disease, cancer, homicides and road traffic accidents, All are basically lifestyle-derived and costly. In addition to health care cost all of these afflictions also contribute to low productivity at work, absence from work due to illness and a strain on our social welfare system. In addition, frequent infectious diseases of which the most important are dengue and HIV, Hepatitis B (HBV), Tuberculosis (TB) and the superbugs and the result is a constant challenge to our already fragile health system.

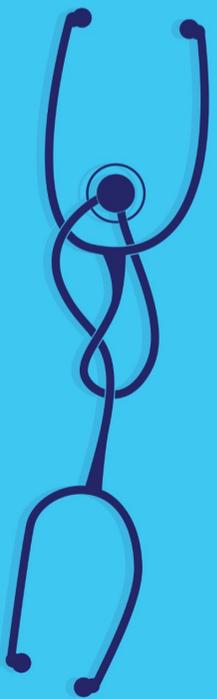
To turn this around, the next PUP government will promote health as a basic human right where the main goal is universal health care for the entire population. It will bring out the best of the public, private sectors and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the short and long-term quality, efficiency and financial sustainability of the system. Our health sector will not only be sustainable but will contribute to the country's economic growth and sustainable human development where access to quality health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines will be granted.

In light of the Covid-19 threat, it becomes most imperative for government to place highest priority on investing on raising the capabilities, quality and timely services of the national public healthcare system.



In terms of specific actions, these are proposed:

1. The long-awaited roll-out of the National Health Insurance program to the entire nation will be done within the FIRST TERM in government. This will guarantee optimum primary health care and management of our most frequent EXPENSIVE and DEVASTATING diseases attacking our nation such as Covid-19, dengue, diabetes, hypertension, heart attack, cancer, HIV, to name a few.
2. KHMH, as the premier and national referral hospital, is one of the main pillars of our national health system. In its present state, KHMH needs urgent attention from GoB to find the appropriate model and solutions that will facilitate the improvement of its organizational leadership and management, medical staff competence and remuneration, plant infrastructure and maintenance, financial management, and accountability and transparency.
3. All health facilities will be upgraded and essential equipment and supplies will be provided with state-of-the-art technology to deliver health care with minimal invasive surgery as laparoscopy, endoscopy, minimizing long hospital stay. An additional WING will be constructed at the KHMH to provide enhanced specialized services of the heart, kidney, brain, lungs and those suffering from cancer expanding our present health care services which our country needs NOW. Also a Public Health Centre for Disease Control will be established in the most accessible location.
4. A PUP GoB will construct a new health facility in Punta Gorda and Belmopan. The construction of these facilities will address the problems of the severely dilapidated infrastructure of the Toledo Hospital and Belmopan health facility, thus improving the health care services for people in the western and southern districts, and decreasing the need for referral to the already congested KHMH. Also a well-designed community hospital will be constructed in San Pedro, Ambergris Caye, with the aim of improving the services to all pregnant and new-born babies providing excellent-quality and accessible maternal services and other secondary services in that important community.
5. Fully equipped MOBILE CLINICS for the elderly population will be created in each district improving the accessibility of health care to our aging population.
6. A National Health Body where people can seek assistance and response to complaint of inadequate health service will be established. The PUP will institute a Patient's Bill of Rights that will stress the key role patients play in staying healthy by laying out rights and responsibilities for all patients and health care providers. This will assist in the monitoring and evaluation of health services given to all Belizeans.
7. A strategic investment will be made in the health workforce. At the primary and secondary levels, there is shortage of primary health care providers, of doctors and nurses needed to provide adequate coverage to some essential interventions and core SDG-related health services. Thus an in-depth analysis of the low motivation and retention of graduated Belizean nurses will be conducted and a structured approach will be implemented for the nurse training program since ad-hoc training sessions are not sufficient to fill gaps in the nursing field.
8. Because health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, a mental health policy will be implemented to strengthen the community mental health services. This policy will address the care of acute psychotic crisis, the forensic psychiatry and the basic anti-psychotic medications.
9. From the lessons learnt during the so-called first wave of Covid-19, the policy will ensure an adequate supply of essential materials, i.e. personal protective equipment, testing kits and re-agents, therapeutics, etc, as well as the availability of proper guidelines and protocols for health professionals in the public and private sectors to do their work with confidence and without fear of being infected.
10. To ensure accountability, a practical, measurable and reliable monitoring and evaluation system will be put in place to track performance in line with resource allocation in the public sector, thereby ensuring good value for money and assessing sustainability of the policy.



ACTIONS

PUNTOS DE ACCION

1. Roll out of NHI system to the entire country.
2. Improvement of services at ERs in the entire country.
3. Skill management of high-risk pregnancy with industry standard technology for all nursery departments at the regional and KHMH.
4. Legislation for revenue collection of “sin” tax to be used solely for NHI
5. Legislation for NHI: separation of functions where MoH is regulator, an independent body to monitor and be purchaser, private hospitals or public polyclinics are providers.
6. Update laws and regulations within the Medical Act and Ministry of Health.
7. Audit of NHI program & Central Medical Stores.
8. Update of National Health Formulary.
9. Formation of National Health Body where people can seek assistance and response to complaint of inadequate health service. Institute a Patient’s Bill of Rights
10. Need to establish max cap for medico/legal cases within public and private entities
11. Establishment of educational program at primary, secondary and tertiary levels on prevention of non-communicable diseases.
12. Establishment of a fair, competitive & transparent tendering procedures.
13. Establishment of private/public health/ PAHO commission to facilitate integral health system.

1. Desplegar el sistema de NHI a todo el país.
2. Mejora de los servicios en las salas de urgencias en todo el país.
3. Manejo de la habilidad de embarazos de alto riesgo con la tecnología estándar de la industria para todos los departamentos de guardería regionales y el KHMH.
4. Legislación para la recaudación del impuesto sobre el consumo perjudicial (sin taxes) que se utilizará únicamente para el NHI
5. Legislación para el NHI: separación de funciones donde el Ministerio de Salud es el regulador, un órgano independiente esta para supervisar y ser comprador, los hospitales privados o las policlínicas públicas son los proveedores.
6. Actualizar las leyes y reglamentos de la Ley médica y el Ministerio de Salud.
7. Auditoría del programa de NHI y de los almacenes médicos centrales.
8. Actualización del Formulario Nacional de Salud.
9. Formación de un cuerpo de salud nacional donde la gente pueda buscar ayuda y respuesta a las quejas de un servicio de salud inadecuado. Instituir una Declaración de Derechos del Paciente
10. Necesidad de establecer un tope máximo para los casos médico-legales en las entidades públicas y privadas
11. Establecimiento de un programa educativo en los niveles, primario, secundario y terciario sobre la prevención de las enfermedades no transmisibles.
12. Establecimiento de procedimientos de licitación justos, competitivos y transparentes.
13. Establecimiento de una comisión de salud pública/privada/OPS para facilitar el sistema de salud integral.

TARGETS

METAS

- a) Construction of new hospitals in Punta Gorda and Belmopan.
- b) Construction of San Pedro Community Hospital.
- c) Construction of a sub-specialty WING at KMH
- d) Increase number of physicians per 1,000 population
- e) Increase and organize number of specialists per 1,000 population.
- f) Increase number of nurses per 1,000 population
- g) Complete and support accreditation of all health facilities
- h) Decrease prevalence and mortality rates of non-communicable diseases
- i) Improve care for diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and cancer
- j) Decrease prevalence of dengue and HIV.
- k) Increase average life expectancy.
- l) Improve assessment of NHI providers.
- m) Decrease prevalence of malnutrition among children.

- a) Construcción de nuevos hospitales en Punta Gorda y Belmopan.
- b) Construcción del Hospital Comunitario de San Pedro.
- c) Construcción de un ala de subespecialidad en el KMH
- d) Aumentar el número de médicos por cada 1.000 habitantes
- e) Aumentar y organizar el número de especialistas por cada 1.000 habitantes.
- f) Aumentar el número de enfermeros por cada 1.000 habitantes
- g) Completar y apoyar la acreditación de todos los centros de salud
- h) Reducir la prevalencia y las tasas de mortalidad de las enfermedades no transmisibles
- i) Mejorar la atención de la diabetes, la hipertensión, las enfermedades cardiovasculares y el cáncer
- j) Disminuir la prevalencia del dengue y el VIH.
- k) Aumentar la esperanza de vida promedio.
- l) Mejorar la evaluación de los proveedores de NHI.
- m) Disminuir la prevalencia de la desnutrición en los niños.

**EVERYBODY
FI WIN!**

BLU

**TODOS
GANAMOS!**