

#planBelize

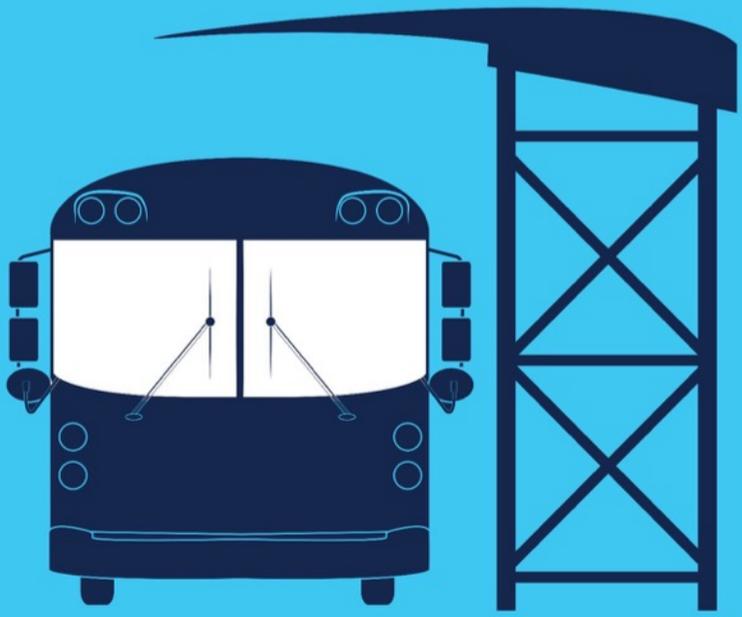


RURAL LIVING

HOUSING



TRANSPORT



INFRASTRUCTURE



RURAL LIVING

Poverty remains the single biggest obstacle to development in Belize. Under the UDP 50% of the population lives in poverty, mostly in rural communities. The UDP's failure to value the potential of rural Belizeans is one of their biggest failures.

The PUP will lead a sustained strategy to improve in the quality of life of the low-income rural population while at the same time seeking to assure an effective and sustained contribution of the rural population to our national economic development.

WE WILL



- Amend legislation to: a) abolish politically appointed water boards and transfer responsibility to the elected village council, b) give village councils the authority to collect the revenue from trade licences sand pits and mines within their villages, c) allow only registered voters to vote in village council elections, d) improve the way liquor licenses, fees and regulations for rural areas are managed, e) expedite the processing of all monies allocated to the village council from the Ministry of Finance
- Provide village councils with adequate resources to provide proper services to their communities
- Ensure annual audits of the village council accounts by the Auditor General
- Ensure central government builds and maintains new farm roads and infrastructure, and the new policy will:
 - Undertake a massive village infrastructure program to improve streets, bridges, culverts and garbage collection in rural communities
 - Carry out a drainage program in low lying communities to mitigate the effects of flooding associated with climate change, reduce the incidence of water borne diseases such as malaria and dengue
 - Construct new hurricane shelters
 - Upgrade and improve maintenance of all public buildings and land spaces

EMPOWERING VILLAGES AND COMMUNITIES THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Ensure equal access to \$3,000,000 rural education grant fund

Improve roads and bridges in some 192 villages through the establishment of local road units and local contractors, labor-intensive methods and local construction materials.



- Expand school spaces in the rural areas at primary and secondary levels.
- Provide Internet access to rural schools and online education for all rural schools where applicable
- Establish Adult education and literacy programs targeting populations that cannot read and write
- Provide ambulance services to key strategic satellite clinics in the rural areas
- Establish partnership to support school feeding programs in as many rural schools as possible while encouraging school garden to support this program
- Implement policies to improve immigrant workers who come to Belize seeking employment and a better way of life.
- Ensure the modernization of public transportation facilities and networks to improve our citizens access to safe comfortable public transportation across the country
- Continue public education on the use of the highways, establishing highway patrolling, and continuous presence of enforcement personnel on the highways.
- Promote investment in community-based infrastructure, such as health clinics, sports facilities, water systems, drains and run-off, main sewage and waste disposal systems, which will prevent our communities from mosquito-borne diseases, as identified, prioritized and agreed with the village councils or local communities.
- Go “green” with renewable energy to reward investment in reliable, affordable, renewable and clean energy.

HOUSING FOR Those in Need



WE WILL LEAD

and implement a robust house construction program:

Facilitate the building of at least 10,000 low income homes in the next five years

1. Build in phases affordable starter homes: Phase 1 will include the construction of starter homes in each constituency, adding up to 10,000 homes in total. The starter homes will be designed with one bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living room. The basic design allows easy expansion to 2 and 3 bedroom options over time.
2. The cost of a starter home is estimated at \$20,000 maximum inclusive of labor. However, the costs will be minimized, to be within the means of a poor family. Cost minimization would be achieved through a combination of government subsidy and financing options.

- a. Establish a National Housing Corporation to drive major housing developments across the country
- b. Implement a revolutionary RENT-TO-OWN program to encourage first time home ownership for Belizeans
- c. Ensure that at least 30% of new homes are reserved for women, police, BDF and Coast Guard officers, teachers, nurses
- d. Pass legislation to encourage housing subdivisions development in public-private partnerships
- e. Remove stamp duty and fees for low income home owners
- f. Facilitate housing subdivisions by Belizeans in the diaspora
- g. Promote zoning and environmentally friendly land use in new areas
- h. Regulate for climate resistant home building

Phase 1 will include the construction of at least 50 starter homes in each constituency Building up to 1,550 homes in total

Government subsidized affordable houses

A PUP Government would contribute to minimizing costs. To be within the means of a low income family. Cost minimization

MINIMIZING COSTS FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

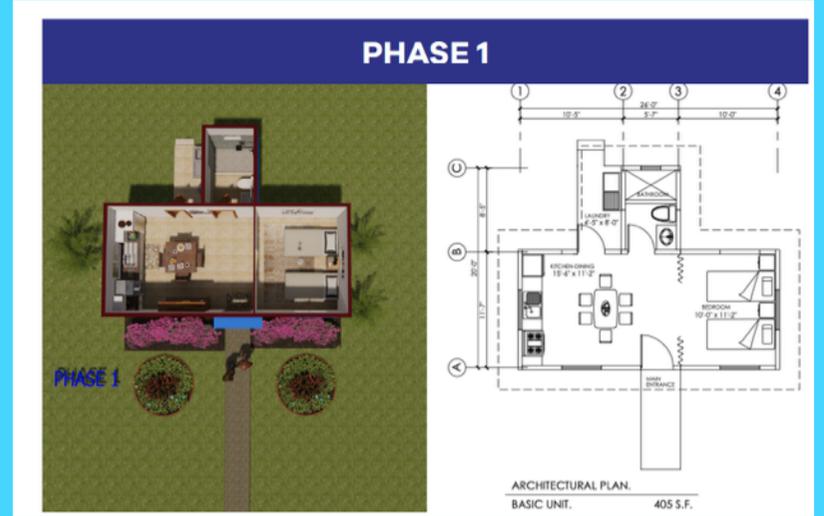
The Government's contribution to make this housing more affordable would include:

- Duty-free and tax-free for all imported materials
- Waiver of approval permitting fee and stamp duty on mortgages
- No-cost provision for set of construction documents and professional supervision of construction technology with the assistance of the private sector construction industry
- Assistance with very low interest loan for about 50% of the total cost

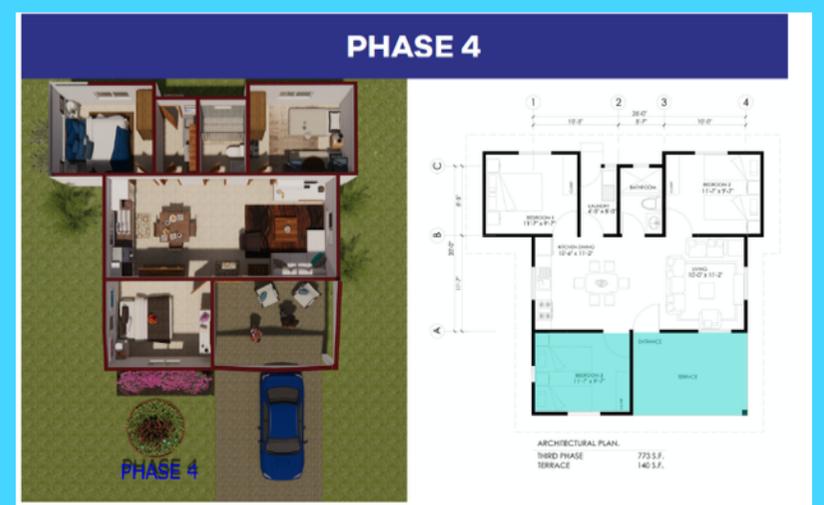
HOMEOWNER SELECTION

The homeowner would be selected on the basis of need and personal responsibility • The homeowner's contribution would include: • Availability of land; no land will delay the process as land would have to be allocated • Most of the labour to be provided by family and community support • Willing to pay an affordable amount per month towards mortgage financing

FAMILY starter homes



The starter homes will be designed with: • One bedroom • One bathroom • One kitchen • One living room **The basic modular design will allow for easy expansion** • Expansion will be available up to 2 and 3 bedroom options over time. • The two and three- bedroom options will also be available in Phase 1 • Depending on demand. If feasible, and after careful ex-ante analysis, "vernacular" architecture with non-traditional, indigenous materials will be used for their construction.



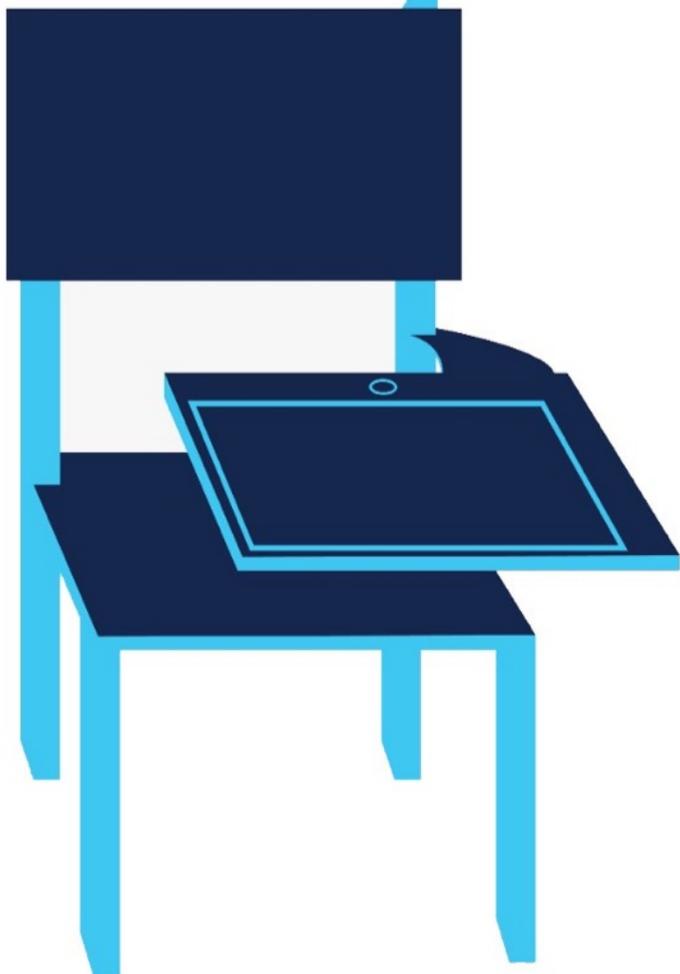
INFRASTRUCTURE



Infrastructure, housing and transport are vital for **national development** in that they are absolutely needed to develop human resources, enable trade and commerce, power businesses, connect workers to their jobs, create opportunities for struggling **communities**, and protect the nation from increasingly hostile climate and natural disasters.

Over the **last 12 years**, the UDP administration has borrowed huge sums, in the hundreds of millions, overspent and wasted valuable time and money on expensive highways, roundabouts, sports facilities, and nationalizing the public utilities (e.g. BTL), mainly to help themselves and their cronies to the proceeds of public contracts in order to finance political campaigns and enrich family and friends.

As the PUP goal of this policy, investments in modern infrastructure must lay the foundations for human, social and economic development and growth by effectively leading in **planning, organising, and building houses, streets, bridges, utilities (i.e. water, sewer, energy, transport, schools.)** and other facilities that make a meaningful difference in the life of the people.



WE WILL

- 1) Amalgamate and **streamline the Ministries of Works and Housing** to be proactive in pursuing their missions, inspiring innovations in every area of work, holding people accountable for their actions, performing cost-benefit analyses of relevant projects.
- 2) Introduce a **transparent regime for the certification of contractors** into four levels based on experience, qualifications, work record, and financial viability and introduce such certifications as qualification for bidding on public contracts.
- 3) Conduct a **complete forensic audit of all Belize Infrastructure Ltd (BIL)** projects since its inception, inclusive of all contracts issued and signed. BIL was set up in order to bypass Parliamentary oversight and scrutiny of the Offices of the Contractor General and the Auditor General and has presided over years of wanton and reckless abuse of public resources. **BIL will be abolished.**
- 4) Establish meaningful **collaborations with stakeholders:** The Association of Professional Architects of Belize (APAB), Association of Professional Engineers of Belize of Belize (APEB), Central Building Authority (CBA), Local City and Municipal building units, and village councils, in critical areas such as development of “green” or “vernacular” architecture alternatives using more indigenous building materials,
- 5) **Education and training for youths** to participate in the construction industry by introducing more technical courses on electrical engineering, plumbing, welding, painting techniques and masonry as well as in construction technology.
- 6) **BUILDING CODE:** Create the first national building, industrial and infrastructure development codes to standardize and regulate designs and specifications for construction in Belize. (International Building Code of 2018)
- 7) Urgently revise and update the **Building Act of Belize** based on an analysis with key stakeholders of our current challenges and priorities in the building sub-sector.
- 8) Assess main highways and existing structures to determine **maintenance needs**, and structural weaknesses and design a plan to address them in an orderly way
- 9) **Assess the need for road signage**, including speed limit signs and other traffic signs and take steps to address, disorganized bus and micro buses behaviour on the highway.
- 10) Immediately after taking office, and as a matter of urgency, assess the **risks of COVID-19 transmission** in all public buildings, especially schools and related buildings, and propose required modifications to prevent the spread and exposure of COVID-19 and thereby promote the safety and wellbeing of children, teachers, and visitors.

GOOD

public TRANSPORTATION

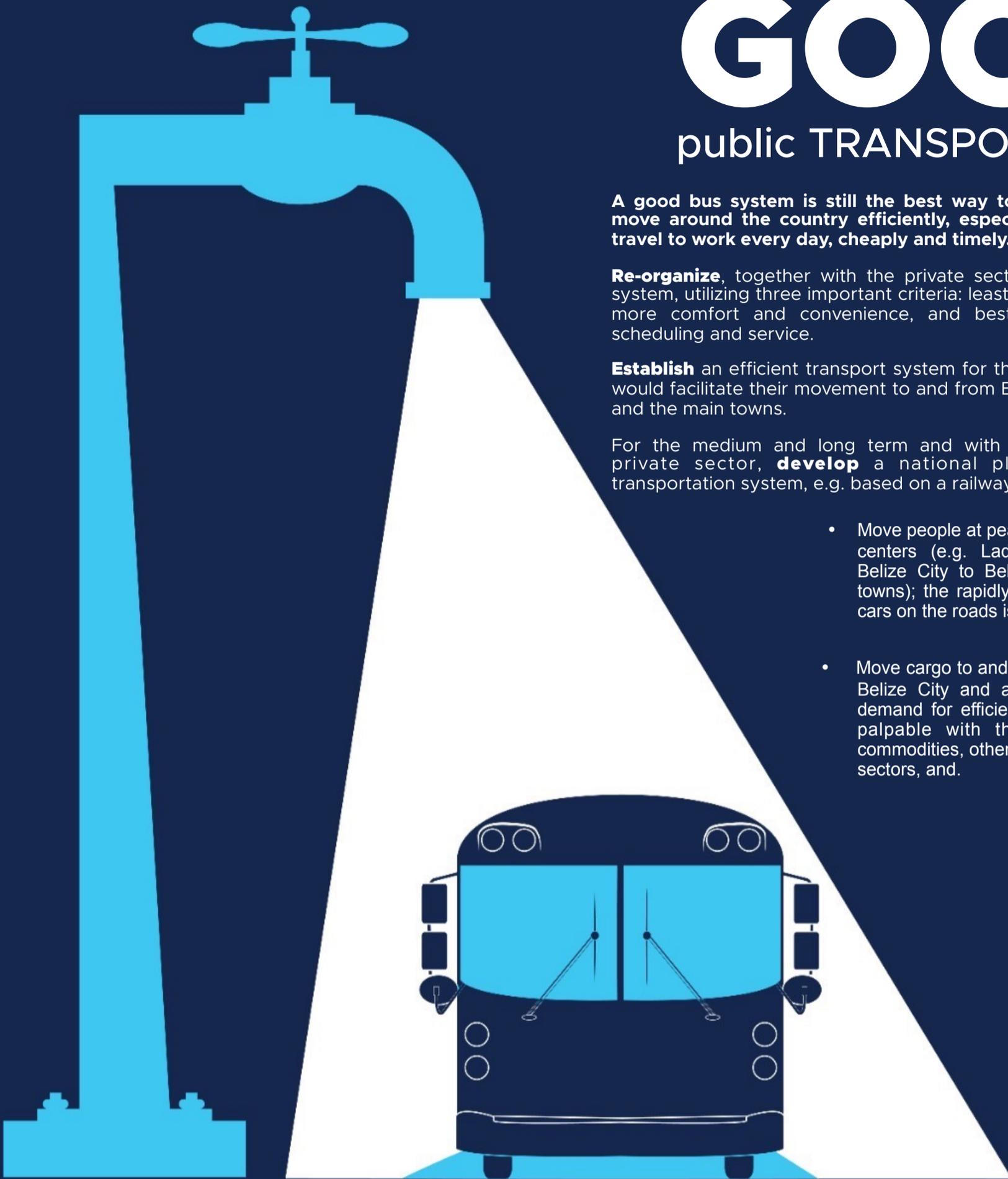
A good bus system is still the best way to get the people to move around the country efficiently, especially for workers to travel to work every day, cheaply and timely.

Re-organize, together with the private sector, the national bus system, utilizing three important criteria: least cost to the traveller, more comfort and convenience, and best efficiency in time scheduling and service.

Establish an efficient transport system for the public service that would facilitate their movement to and from Belmopan, Belize City and the main towns.

For the medium and long term and with participation of the private sector, **develop** a national plan for a modern transportation system, e.g. based on a railway network, to:

- Move people at peak hours from the main centers (e.g. Ladyville to Belize City, Belize City to Belmopan and the main towns); the rapidly increasing number of cars on the roads is not sustainable, and
- Move cargo to and from the main ports in Belize City and at Mango Creek: This demand for efficient transport is already palpable with the traditional export commodities, other productive/distribution sectors, and.



Strategic Approach

This PUP policy will have a great impact on urban and rural families, because the policy will create a huge demand for small contractors, skilled persons and local labourers, since most of the proposed constructions or works would be labor-intensive, meaning that approximately 50% of the total cost will accrue to wages.

The infrastructure, housing and transport agenda will be driven by the needs of local communities and groups and will require excellent collaboration and partnerships among central government, the private sector and suppliers, local governments at the municipal and village levels, and non-governmental and community-based organizations.