

APPENDIX A



The Government Minute

The Government's Responses to the Reports of the Standing Public Accounts
Committee on the Reports of the Auditor General

March 2022

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BACKGROUND

Section 77(7) of the Legislative Assembly Standing Orders (2006 Revision) states that the Government Minute shall be laid on the Table of the House within three months of laying of the report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee and of the report(s) of the Auditor General to which it relates.

The Government Minute constitutes the Government's response to the Report of the Standing Public Accounts Committee tabled in the Parliament on 10 04 2019 on the following Report prepared by the Auditor General:

1. Follow-up on past PAC recommendations – October 2018.

Follow-up on past PAC recommendations – October 2018

The Public Account Committee (“the Committee”) made four (4) recommendations in relation to “9.02 Social Assistance Programmes”, and three (3) recommendations in relation to “9.03 Ensuring Quality Healthcare and a healthy population”.

“Social Assistance Programmes”

Recommendation 1 – “Ministry of Health, Environment, Housing and Culture (MHEHC) should develop a housing strategy for the country that includes housing for low income families” (PAC).

Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure

As the Ministry now with responsibility for housing, we agree with the recommendation that a housing strategy for the country which includes housing for low income families should be developed.

The Ministry of PAHI is committed to undertaking an initial assessment of any reports and documents that were prepared on housing, with the view of submitting a draft strategy to the Government by end of 2023.

Recommendation 2 – “MHEHC should review the method for approving medical indigents and establish a post at the HSA to provide easier access” (PAC).

Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Health & Wellness:

The current position is that there is no dedicated post at the HSA for this but the patient services and medical social worker assists persons to navigate the applications process. The Ministry is also in the process of organizing discussions with respect to the approval method for indigents, and an initial meeting was held on March 16th 2022.

Recommendation 3 – “The legislation to replace the Poor Relief Law should be brought to the Legislature as soon as possible” (PAC).

Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Investment, Innovation & Social Development:

The draft Financial Assistance Bill is being reviewed by focus groups to receive feedback and additional recommendations for revisions. The collated feedback will be considered and incorporated. The amended bill will be presented to the Minister responsible for Social Development within Q1 of 2022, and subsequently to Cabinet once it has been approved by the Minister.

Recommendation 4 – “The Ministry of Community Affairs should do a review of the staffing levels of the Needs Assessment Unit to determine that adequate resources are provided to deal with the workload” (PAC).

Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Investment, Innovation & Social Development:

MIISD is undergoing an organizational review, including analyzing human resources capacity, organizational structure and job descriptions as part of the Social Development Strategy.

“Ensuring Quality Healthcare and a healthy population”

Recommendation 1 – “MHEHC should consider Canada as an option for Caymanian doctors to obtain specialty board certification” (PAC).

Latest Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Health & Wellness:

The Ministry undertakes to ensure that a formal policy on how to develop Caymanian Doctors is presented to Minister/Caucus/Cabinet by end of quarter 2 of 2022. Considering Canada as an option for Caymanian doctors to obtain specialty board certification, will be considered as part of this policy.

Currently the Ministry funds \$150,000 to the HSA per annum for Medical Internships to develop Caymanian Doctors. Further information is being gathered to form the policy therefore additional details will be shared at such time.

Recommendation 2 – “MHECH should consider ways to reduce cost of Healthcare such as duty removal from drugs and medical supplies as well as reducing the HSA’s 100% mark-up on the cost of drugs” (PAC).

Latest Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Health & Wellness:

There are several factors that contribute to the cost of healthcare. The major contributors are namely the cost of hospital care; physician services including consultations & outpatient services; medical equipment/technology, drugs and drug sundries and medical supplies.

While the increasing cost of health insurance premiums is linked mainly to the utilization of healthcare systems, health insurance is not a major, direct contributor to the cost of healthcare.

To address the high cost of healthcare, it would be necessary to control the costs of all of the aforementioned contributors.

The costs of healthcare will be further considered during 2022, to include a review of duty and mark-up on drugs.

Recommendation 3 – “MHECH should publish the finding of the review of Health Insurance providers currently being conducted by the Health Insurance Commission” (PAC).

Latest Government Update (March 2022):

Ministry of Health & Wellness:

This recommendation was completed and the Department of Health Regulatory Service has published this information on its website.