



Improving access to quality health care through community health financing

Who is for us? Health insurance in Presidential Manifestos

Eight candidates are traversing the country seeking the mandate of citizens to lead Uganda for the next five years. The candidates' manifestos are ideally expected to inform the decisions of voters in the presidential elections slated for 18th February 2016. Health sector financing and service delivery are among the thorny issues candidates are promising to address. We bring you direct extracts from candidates' manifestos on introducing health insurance in Uganda.



Prof. Venansius Baryamureeba



Implementing a National Health Insurance scheme that covers all citizens.



Col. (Rtd). Dr. Kizza Besigye



Establish a health insurance scheme to ensure coverage for all citizens who do not have insurance from private health service providers or work-based insurance schemes.



Yoweri Kaguta Museveni



The development of the Health Insurance Law is near completion after a thorough and wide consultative process... In order to improve access to health services in the country, we will start a phased implementation of the Universal Health Insurance Scheme. To-date, wide consultations have been finalised and the Bill is in place awaiting its enactment.



Dr. Abed Bwanika



PEOPLES DEVELOPEMENT PARTY

Guaranteed health care

Enact a health insurance Act that requires all employers and employees both in private and public to contribute to health insurance.



Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi



We will introduce a Voluntary Health Insurance Scheme nationwide. This scheme is a system of social insurance in which the risk of meeting the cost of the MHP (minimum health package) is mitigated by government and individuals pooling resources. These funds will be channeled directly into an insurance fund...The scheme will be based on the principles of equity, social solidarity, community ownership and democratic control.

We were unable to establish the published positions of other presidential candidates on health insurance. If you know the positions of Maj. Benon Biraro, Maurine Kyalya Walube and Elton Joseph Mbirizi on the issue, please share with us through the addresses given below.

Sheema District Chairman roots for Tweragurize

By Friday Moses

Sheema District Chairman, Mr. Pastor Mugisha, is one of the local leaders passionate about the potential of community health insurance (CHI) to improve people's quality of life by easing access to health care.

While presiding as Chief Guest at the launch of the fourth year of Kasaana West Tuhwerane Tweragurize scheme in Sheema district, Mr Mugisha pledged support towards promoting CHI schemes in the district, in addition to sharing the experiences and ideology with other government agencies and stakeholders.

He noted that embracing the saving culture is

the key to community development as it enables people to overcome challenges with minimal hardships.

He appreciated the contribution of Save for Health Uganda (SHU) towards easing access to quality and timely health care services for the people in Sheema.

Tweragurize is the local name given to CHI promoted by SHU in Bushenyi and Sheema districts. Kasaana West Tuhwerane Tweragurize scheme has a total of 337 beneficiaries from 37 households. Its members receive health care services from Ishaka Adventist and Kitagata hospitals.



Mr. Mugisha speaking at the launch of the fourth year of Kasaana West Tuhwerane Tweragurize scheme.

Community health insurance schemes welcome Nakaseke Hospital renovation

By Esther Nakiryowa

Members of Community Health Insurance (CHI) schemes in Luwero, Nakaseke and Nakasongola districts have resumed utilizing services of Nakaseke hospital following its renovation by the government.

This year, the hospital will receive patients from 40 schemes which have a total of 13,225 members. These will access all outpatient and inpatient services including maternity, dental, gynecological, surgical and eye care services.

Scheme members had stopped using the hospital citing problems of long queues, the

private wing being located in the same premises with the general wing, frequent drug stock outs, absence of medical personnel especially at night, and poor maintenance of the premises.

The situation has greatly improved with the renovation of the hospital and establishment of a fully equipped private wing in addition to improving other facilities including the kitchen, toilets and laundry area.

According to the President of Munno Mu Bulwade Union of Schemes Organisation (MBUSO), a network of community health insurance (CHI) schemes in the three districts, Mr Kintu Peter, renovation of the

Hospital has improved access to quality healthcare services for scheme members within its catchment area.



The In-charge of the private wing Evelyn Sanyu explains to some scheme leaders the improvements at Nakaseke hospital.



Natukunda with her twins

Scheme members' corner

My name is Natukunda Scovia. I am married to Mr. Mulekura Storio. We have five children including two sets of twins. Farming is our source of livelihood.

SHU introduced CHI in our area in May 2015 and we immediately enrolled in Rurehe-North Tweragurize scheme in Mitooma district. We paid shs42,000 as premium for our household to enable us access health care services for a full year.

I enrolled into the scheme while pregnant at six months. When labour pains started, I was rushed to Kitagata hospital and delivered a set of twins on 8th October 2015. I spent four days in the private wing (Grade A) but was discharged without paying anything. My scheme paid the entire bill which was more than double the premium we paid. On top of that, my family members still qualify to access health care services for the whole year.

Compiled by Friday Moses