

This is the PUP's continuity plan and Social Contract with the citizens of Orange Walk Town. In our second term of office, the PUP Town Council will vehemently pursue the Social Justice agenda of the PUP and continue to serve through aparthnership with the people. This is our Manifesto of solutions that propels our actions and our resolve to offer our citizens the best service against all odds. The PUP Council has proven that they can continuously serve the residents of our town better.

# ***Orange Walk Town*** **The People's United Party**

# PUP 7



Manifesto  
2015 - 2018



***Continuously Serving the People***

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## INTRODUCTION

Over the past 3 years a capable and experienced team of 7 dedicated PUP Town Council leaders has brought unprecedented growth to our town; repaired an inherited decaying infrastructure, and made good on their Social Contract with the people. An outdated financial system has been repaired and made transparent. Thanks to a Partnership with the People, our residents have confidence and trust in the current management of the Town Council affairs. All this accomplished without any help from GOB. The dynamic PUP 7 team remains committed to our town, will keep improving the delivery of Municipal Services to all, and will continue to make the Council more effective and accountable.

## FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Your PUP Town Council gained the trust of the community by implementing real transparency to the management of the affairs of our Municipality; and ended the financial abuse that existed prior to 2012 by introducing professional management and accounting practices.

### Your PUP Town Council will:

- Keep reducing the inherited UDP debt burden while maintaining financial stability.
- Always keep our Financial Records accessible to the public via our Town Council website.
- Publish quarterly Financial Reports on newspapers or any other medium.
- Hold open public meeting every six months to specifically discuss the financial affairs of the Council.
- Keep austerity measures in place to ensure reduced administrative costs.
- Follow the Revenue Enhancement Consultancy recommendations to improve revenue collection.
- Incorporate into the yearly budgets measures that advances the goals of a child friendly municipality

## TAXES

Over the last 3 years, residents have seen an improved, fair and efficient tax system that works for them.

### Your PUP Town Council will:

- Introduce an effective online Tax collection system.
- Offer tax benefits to Senior Citizens over the age of 65.
- Ensure that taxes are put to good use in the development of our Town.
- Keep taxes fair, transparent and equitable at all times.
- Guarantee that residents with overdue taxes are given fair and equal opportunity to become current with their tax payments.
- Continue offering fair and equitable tax incentives to new start up businesses.

## STREETS AND DRAINS

Your Orange Walk Town Council has worked hard with limited resources to pave and upgrade some of the worst streets including the cementing of some major intersections because our residents demand and deserve the best.

### Your PUP Town Council will:

- Continue our robust program to properly repair and maintain streets and drains.
- Further upgrade and open new drains where necessary especially in flood prone areas.



No Turning Back...

My Orange Walk Family...

I could write here about the mess we found when we entered Town Hall in March of 2012, placed there by an overwhelming mandate of the people. I could make reference to the broken streets, filthy drains, neglected parks, lacklustre services. I could write about the huge debts the UDP left behind – to the banks, the Social Security Board, GST... unpaid, bloated contracts to cronies. But that is all in the past.

Today, and since 2012, there is new life in Orange Walk Town – new leadership, new vision and a successful partnership with our people in everything we do – every step of the way.

Our first step was restoring integrity to an office in financial shambles. That was priority number one. For too long we were all kept in the dark with no idea how our tax dollars were being spent. There was zero accountability, zero transparency and zero work. All that has changed, and now residents have full access to ALL the financial records of the Council at any time. Those records are even posted on our website for easy access.

Despite debt burdens which have hindered us, we initiated a comprehensive work plan to address the worst streets, drains and most neglected infrastructure in town. That plan is in full effect. You all have seen the work which has been done, and it is ongoing. We intend to fix and maintain every single street in Orange Walk Town.

And we have done much more, including the implementation of a fair tax system, increased efficiency of traffic regulation and transport services, innovative programs for our youths, enhanced opportunities for entrepreneurs and small businesses and through it all, the continued provision of basic, essential municipal services.

This PUP Team 7, since 2012, has maintained its record of honesty, integrity, hard-work and SERVICE. Our commitment remains strong. We present our manifesto to you with the understanding that it is a binding contract – a list of achievable goals and real plans to bring continued development to our people and our town. With your input, advice, constructive criticism and support, the work will continue. TOGETHER we will make it happen.

Yours Sincerely,

Kevin Bernard  
Mayor & Mayoral Candidate  
Orange Walk Town



## Achievements

### Financial Management:

Stabilized the Council Finances  
Reducing the Debt Burden of the Council

### Traffic

Brought 3 new Motorcycle for the department  
Acquired new Drivers License and Motor Vehicle System  
New equipments to assist with monitoring of Traffic Regulations

### Streets & Infrastructure

Cemented 6 Major Intersections  
Paved 13 Street from tax payers money  
Contributed 3% counterpart Contribution towards the completion of 4 major streets in town  
Upgraded many roads in Marcus Canul, Pasadita and Lower Louisiana Area

### Parks & Playgrounds

Upgraded the Central Park under the BMDP project  
Acquired new Park Equipment at nature Park  
Constructed Basketball Court at Nature Park in conjunction with the Area Representative  
Cemented the Bleachers at Union Town Park in conjunction with the Area Representative  
Install Lights at the San Lorenzo Housing Site Basketball Court  
Placed new lights at the Union Town Park

### Economic and Cultural Activity

Held successive Fiestrama Business Expo & Fair  
Increased opportunities for vendors through the weekly Flea Markets  
Supported the work of BTIA-OW  
Held several concerts at FortCaims Market to showcase local artist  
Held record breaking September Celebrations Activities that attracted thousands of people in town  
Promoted Culture through activities held on Garifuna Settlement Day and other activities

### Sports and Youth Activities:

Supported numerous sporting programs throughout the town  
Held successful zoning competitions  
Assisted over 400 students in the Summer Job program

### Women Affairs

Hosted a three month women's program for single mothers  
Hired single mothers

### Technological Advancement in Administration

Implemented the use of a Council Website  
Financial Records made accessible via the Council website  
Open Town Meetings were made accessible via Live Stream Technology

### Partnership With The People

Built Several New Drains and Sidewalks in Neighborhoods  
Built Several Vehicle Entrances  
Built Pedestrian Crossings  
Built 4 Bus Sheds in Town

- Ensure that overgrown properties are cleaned in a timely manner.
- Maintain existing bus shelters and build new ones in partnership with the business community.
- Construct pedestrian safety crossing in school areas where needed.
- Implement safe school zones to promote a Child Friendly Municipality.

## INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING AND INVESTMENTS

The quality of infrastructure is intrinsically related to the quality of life in a municipality. Good quality water, proper sanitation, paved streets, adequate drainage, top grade telecommunications and dependable energy are essential ingredients required for economic growth and social development. As the population expands the demand for these services also increases proportionally. Therefore, it is essential that the council concentrate on the infrastructure within its domain that will provide the major impetus to support urban expansion in the future.

### Your PUP Town Council will:

- Raise funds from a \$5 Million Municipal Bond Offer to pave and upgrade major streets within our town.
- Work with a **NEW PUP Central Government** to raise another \$5 Million to continue the paving and upgrading of more streets.
- Continue concreting major road intersections within key areas of Town.
- Develop a comprehensive Drainage plan that will address the drainage issues affecting our Town and conduct a LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) study to support flooding mitigation and resilience in our municipality and identify funding to implement such a plan.
- Lobby the **New PUP Central Government** to acquire new equipment to carry out infrastructure works in the Municipality
- Lobby the **New PUP Central Government** for the construction of a permanent, modern & appropriate Bus Terminal facility.

## CEMETERY

There is a need to adequately put our dearly departed in a dignified resting place.

### Your PUP Town Council will:

- Lobby with the Ministry of Natural Resources to allocate land for the construction of a new cemetery.
- Build a modern, affordable and secure cemetery for our dearly departed.
- Continue the proper maintenance and beautification of existing sites.

## TRAFFIC

Our rapidly expanding community requires a comprehensive plan to address traffic related issues.

### Your PUP Town Council will:

- Aim to regularize the Taxi industry in Orange Walk Town in order to have a more level playing field.
- Enforce local traffic regulations to ensure orderly and safe traffic.
- Broaden the representation of key stakeholders in Municipal Transport Committee.
- Identify new parking areas for downtown Orange Walk.
- Renovate the Traffic Department to offer more comfortable and improve services to our residents.