Patriotic Front Manifesto; 
Health Service Provision

“The education and health sectors as well as the poor provision of employment opportunities – key components of any nation’s human development index - have continued to perform poorly in Zambia.

Our people are in need of food, shelter, access to clean water, health care facilities, a sustainable environment, social justice and employment”(PF Manifesto)

Good health is an essential prerequisite for national development. The role of the health services is to promote health, prevent disease and injury, treat and rehabilitate the sick and injured. The Health Care services consists of six main domains, namely service delivery, human resources, medicines and technology, health financing, health information systems and leadership and governance.....

Recognizing the grave state of the current health services provision in Zambia, the PF government shall:

PF Manifesto Provision (a) Health Services Financing
• Increase the budgetary allocation from the current levels to at least 15% of the national budget in accordance with the Abuja protocols and ensure actual releases;
• Abolish user fees and co-payments;
• Promote public-private partnerships in the financing of health services;
• Provide basic health care based on need and not ability to pay;

Health Financing Submission
1. Health Financing (Yellow Book) should go beyond District and first level health services to ensure that facilities get what is due to them as opposed to suffering from priority shifts in the hierarchy which result in reduced funding. This will help Guard against reduced funding as one gets closer to facility level.
2. Ensure the adequate and timely disbursement of grants to Health facilities.
3. Plan for increased utilisation through increased resource allocation.
4. Removal of user fees will only be of benefit if user fee replacement is catered for (Livingstone district had more than 300 Million in user fees alone in 2011 but the allocation for 2012 (2011 allocation:770,053,195 and 2012 allocation 1,048,262,305).
5. As we promote Public Private Partnership the Government should ensure continuity of care between Private and Public facilities as opposed to the current situation where public health facilities disregard investigations done at private health facilities.

PF Manifesto Provision(b) Service Provision
• Provide an Essential Health Package for each level of health care;
• Rehabilitate, fully equip and provide adequate staff to all levels of health care;
• Establish Intensive Care Units that will be fully equipped and staffed for emergencies and specialized cases to drastically reduce the need for referring patients abroad;
• Scale up effective interventions for the prevention and management of HIV and AIDS, Malaria, TB, and the screening for cancer of the cervix, breast and the prostate;
• Update the treatment guidelines in light of advances in medical technology and make the same available at all levels of health care;
• Establish a strong referral system for complicated cases, such as emergency obstetric patients;
• Establish specialized care units that will be fully equipped and staffed in order to reduce the number of patients referred abroad and hence promote health equity amongst citizens;
• Adopt a system of inviting specialists from abroad for complicated cases in order to reduce the cost of referring patients abroad;

**Service Provision Submission**
1. Quality of care needs to be put on top of the agenda.
2. Strengthen patient voice and mechanisms for reporting negligent and incompetent health workers.
3. Strengthen collaboration and financing of determinants of health (Nutrition, water and sanitation, drug abuse).
4. Increase the number of Zambian health professionals with Specialist skills and provide deliberate opportunities

**PF Manifesto Health Provision (c) Human Resource**
• Improve conditions of service, effectively manage the human resource and enhance retention strategies both monetary and non-monetary in order to stem the brain drain;
• Promote continued professional development and in-service training as an integral part of skills upgrading and life-long career development of staff;
• Deploy new and retired staff to fill the skills gap and vacant posts;
• Develop a tracer programme of retired staff in order to utilize their services in times of need and emergency;
• Rehabilitate and expand existing health training institutions so as to increase the number of graduates;
• Introduce task shifting and new category of health staff to assume some of the functions currently undertaken by doctors and nurses;

**Human Resource Submission**
1. Moonlighting needs to be monitored and regulated. Operating or working in a private clinic while in government employment is within the rights of health workers however we need to guard against people spending time paid for with public resources in private institutions. (How much time is the public health system paying for when a health practitioner can be available at a private health facility whenever they are called upon?)
2. Implement Appraisal Performance Assessment System (APAS).

**PF Manifesto Health Provision (d) Medicines and Technology**
• Increase availability of essential medicines like ARV’s, anti-malarials, antibiotics and commodities for emergency obstetric care;
• Rationalize the Procurement and Supply chain for medicines and medical commodities to eliminate abuse and promote transparency;
• Develop a medical equipment policy to standardize procurement of medical equipment and to inform procurement and assure the maintenance of such by the manufacturers;

**Medicines and Technology Submission**
1. Explore local manufacture of medicines through the creation of incentives for the industry to take off.
2. Strengthen medicine quality assurance to guard against counterfeits.
3. Increase diagnostic technology (each province should be able to do DBS, have MRI etc)
4. Achieve a balance between maintenance and investment in existing structures and creation of new structures.
5. Invest in Specialised Services such as mental Health facilities are urgently needed.

**PF Manifesto Health Provision (e) Health Information System**
- Establish a computerized National Health Data Base, capturing the whole population of the country;
- Implement a vigorous Behavioural Change Communication (BCC) strategy, utilizing all media and communication channels;

**Health Information System Submission**
Compel Private facilities to feed into HMIS.

**PF Manifesto Health Provision (f) Organization and Leadership**
- Implement functional and organizational reforms in the health sector in line with the overall strategy of increasing efficiency and improving standards in service delivery;
- Ensure and promote close collaboration with the Traditional healing system to utilize its psychotherapeutic strengths and to ensure the principle of “do no harm”;
- Collaborate with and educate fundamentalist churches who have been advising members against ART, hence causing unnecessary deaths;
- Review and update the Memorandum Of Understanding between the Ministry of Health and cooperating partners with a view to rebuilding confidence and adherence to the letter and spirit of the document by all the signatories;
- Introduce new legislation that would fill the vacuum left by the repeal in 2005 of the National Health Services Act.

**Organization and Leadership Submission**
Develop operational guidelines and orient all stakeholders in health of the realignment of Mother and Child Health function realignment.

**Health Districts**
The current health maps make for very inefficient resource utilisation as some districts have to go through other districts to reach facilities.

Catchment populations are based on Geographical boundaries created with other considerations as primary focus. Health Districts need to be established to reflect real catchment populations.
Legislation
Fill the vacuum left by the repeal in 2005 of the National Health Services Act with an act that recognises and promotes good governance, the role of state and non state non state actors in the Health sector, transparency and accountability.

Conclusion
The PF Manifesto provides for a very promising vision of improving health service provision. This journey has shown promising Leadership indicators.

We look forward to working together in achieving health for all Zambians.