



OMB
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GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR 2012-2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Today we are presenting the Proposed Budget of the Government of Puerto Rico for the 2013 Fiscal Year.

We have worked on this budget with the same sense of responsibility and seriousness that have guided the efforts of this Administration from the very beginning. This has been done with the single-minded aim of achieving the Puerto Rico that our people want and deserve. Today, we can see the results of these efforts, results achieved because we did what had to be done: to establish a strategic plan with a well-defined goal and a team committed to carrying it out for the benefit of all Puerto Ricans.

As a result, the economic context in which we created this budget is very different today from what we found when we began our work. Behind us lies the fiscal crisis that paralyzed our island. Today, our economy is booming and headed on the path towards future sustained growth. Our people have more money in their pockets, thanks to a comprehensive Tax Reform that returned more than \$1,200 million per year to taxpayers. The deficit which we faced in 2009 - the highest budget deficit per capita in the nation - was reduced by 82% in 2012 and, by 2013, it will have been reduced by 90%.

Although we are on firmer ground, much still remains to be done. And we must move ahead responsibly, exercising sound judgment in controlling costs, so as not to jeopardize what has been achieved. The Proposed Budget considers the priorities of our people - such as health, public safety and education - and treats them in a responsible and decisive manner.

Among the Programs and initiatives included in the Proposed Budget are the Strike Point Program of the Puerto Rican Police Force; Your Values Count; the website of the Government of Puerto Rico, www.pr.gov; the 100x35 Music Project; the Alliance Program for Alternative Education from the Department of Education; and Academic and Vocational Education for Inmate Rehabilitation. We have also included the "My Health" Program in this Budget, broader and better resources to ensure the peace and safety of our environment and economic development programs so that good and honest citizens can find jobs.

I am convinced that this budget supports the hope that we all harbor as Puerto Ricans... the hope that gives us reason to continue to work together... the hope for a Puerto Rico that fights, moves ahead and overcomes all obstacles to achieve its full potential.

I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve our Puerto Rico.

Juan C. Pavia
Director