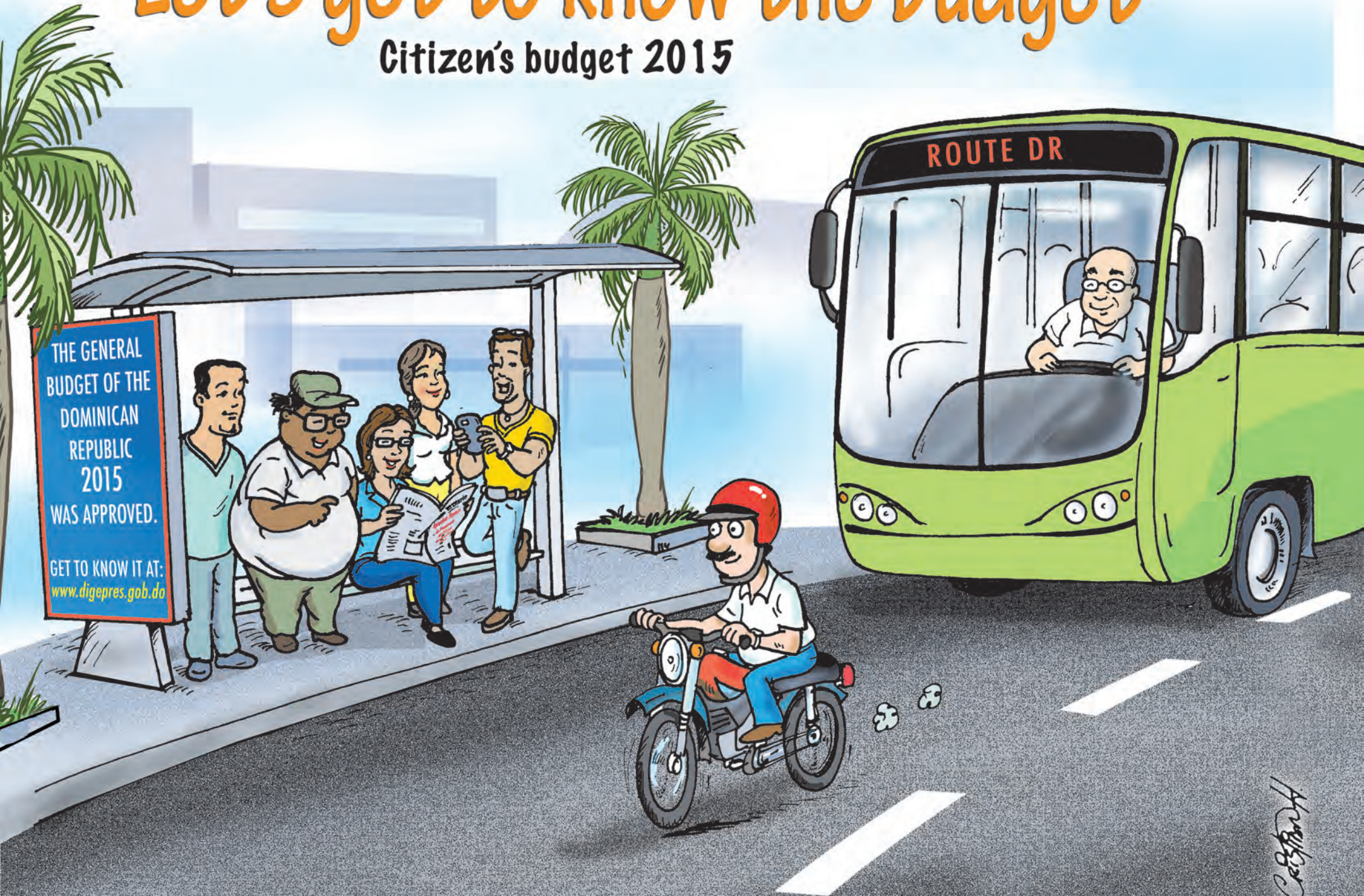


# Let's get to know the budget

Citizen's budget 2015



Cartoonist's signature



Al servicio  
de las personas  
y las naciones

## Let's get to know the budget

Citizen's budget 2015

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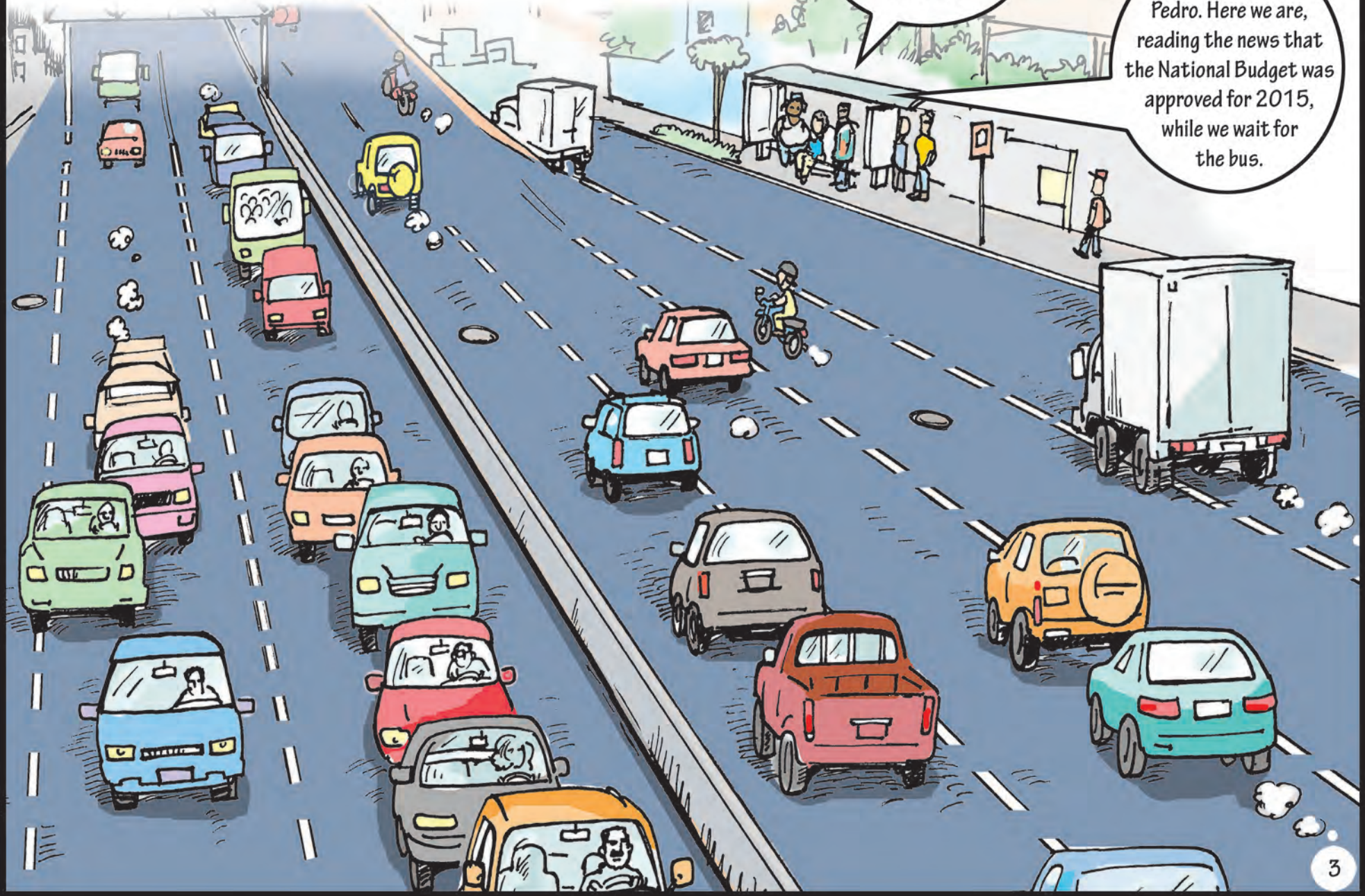
2015

# Let's get to know the budget

## Citizen's budget 2015

Good morning, people. How are you, teacher?

Good morning, Pedro. Here we are, reading the news that the National Budget was approved for 2015, while we wait for the bus.







Yes, it is Pedro. And it is a very common trend among many other countries in the world. However, it is important that the fiscal deficit be always under control and that the excess spending that generates it will contribute to improving quality of life among Dominicans.

Here in the newspaper it says that it is a priority for the government to continue controlling the deficit, such that it won't need to borrow additional public debt.

Miss Miguelina, I'm lost. I don't understand any of that! How does that budget thing work? Where do all those millions that the government spends come from?





Look Juana, ever since I realized that I contribute by paying taxes, I am following what the government does with that money. Hey, Jonathan, you, too, come and listen to this, so you get informed!

Oh yeah, please go ahead and explain to us what the government does with our money.



Every year the government makes a plan where it defines how much money it is going to use and where it will get it from, to provide the services people need. That plan is approved by Congress and becomes the National Budget Law for the next year, or what is commonly known as just "the Budget."





We can see here that for each RD\$ 100 that the government gets during 2015, RD\$ 28 will come from loans, RD\$ 23 will come from Value-added Tax (VAT), and RD\$ 20 will come from income taxes, paid by businesses, workers, lottery winners, and such.

## Where will the National Budget's money come from in 2015?

Loans:  
RD\$28

VAT:  
RD\$23

Income taxes:  
RD\$20

Excise tax  
on fuel:  
RD\$8

Import tax  
RD\$4

Excise tax  
on alcoholic  
beverages  
RD\$3

Donations:  
RD\$1

Other income  
sources:  
RD\$6

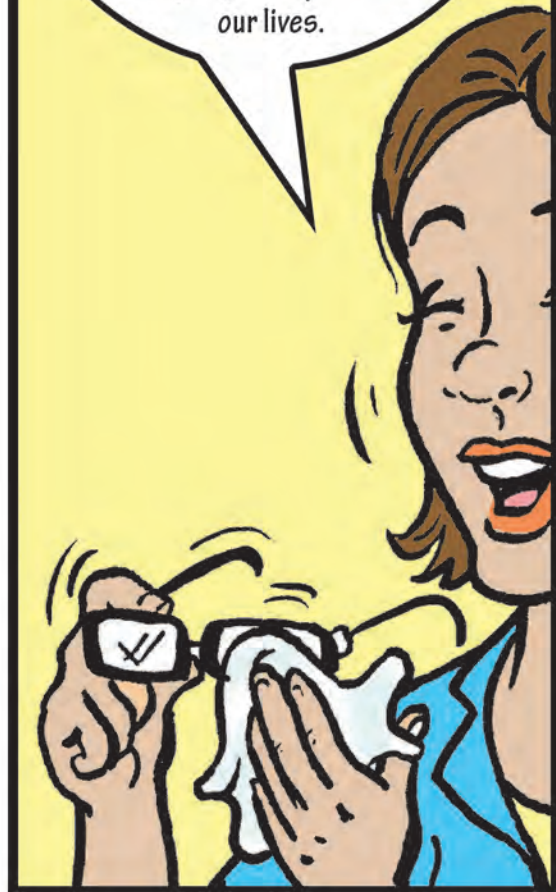
Other  
current income  
sources\*:  
RD\$4

Property and  
transaction  
taxes:  
RD\$3

\*Contributions to social security, sale of goods and services, property rent, current transfers, fines and sanctions.



Yes, Juana.  
The Budget for 2015 includes an increase in the Solidary Bank credit portfolio of the National Council for the Promotion and Support of Small, Medium and Microenterprises (PROMIPYME), and in the credit portfolio of the Reservas Foundation; both of these initiatives support small business like yours. In addition, there are several other investments that are going to improve our lives.



Oh, it says here in the news that they are finally going to rebuild the road from Sabana Larga to Rancho Arriba in Ocoa, and that the route between Bani and Azua will be improved. Great, now I'll be able to travel and see my family faster.



The government will also build an Eco-highway in Santiago and will rebuild the highway from Bavaro to Miches and Sabana de La Mar.





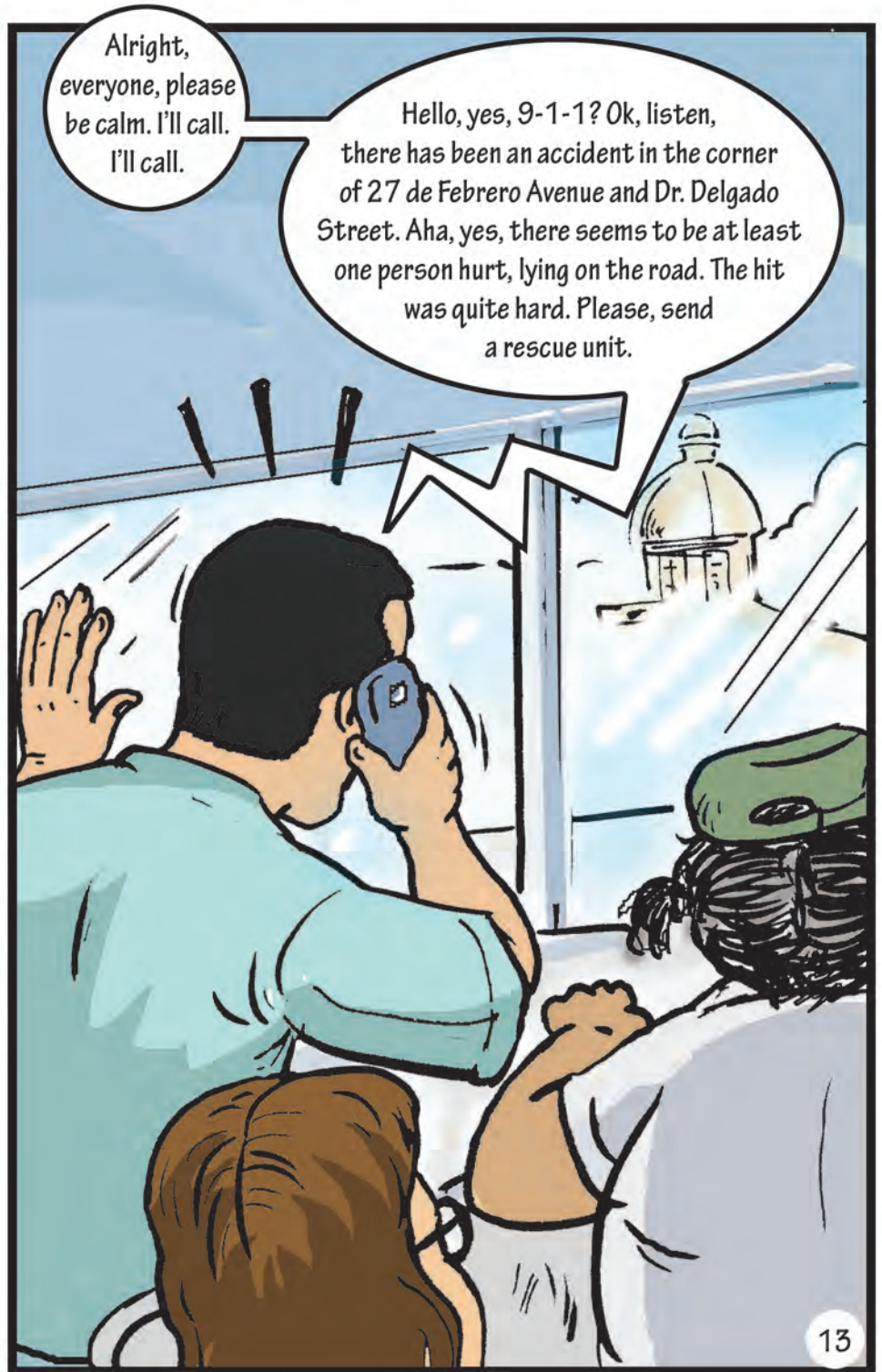
Alright! With that we'll get from Km 9 of the Duarte Highway in West Santo Domingo to the Megacentro Mall in East Santo Domingo in no time!

The second Metro line is also in the Budget. I'll definitely get to work faster once it's completed. And whatever I save from not having to ride buses and cabs, I'll use for my college assignments and for paying for my gym.





Attention, passengers! There was an accident just now, between a car and a motorcycle that were travelling at a high speed. They hit each other pretty hard. Could anyone please call 9-1-1 right away?



Alright, everyone, please be calm. I'll call. I'll call.

Hello, yes, 9-1-1? Ok, listen, there has been an accident in the corner of 27 de Febrero Avenue and Dr. Delgado Street. Aha, yes, there seems to be at least one person hurt, lying on the road. The hit was quite hard. Please, send a rescue unit.

Hey, people, for real, the 9-1-1 service is working well. For 2015, I heard they announced that they will provide service to other cities away from the capital, such as Santiago, Puerto Plata, San Cristobal and Haina.

Giving its credit to the Budget, I also saw on the comic that the government is going to do what was promised to my neighborhood, La Barquita. There is a project to rebuild it, with the construction of new housing, sewage and a river park. This project will not benefit not only my neighborhood, but also the people from Los Mina Norte and Sabana Perdida in East Santo Domingo.

I always complain, but finally I saw that the 2015 Budget includes the purchase of 100 air-conditioned new buses for the Public Bus Service. I already signed up to drive one of those.



Hey, guys, check out this 100 pesos illustration that I found in the news section of the Budget Directorate's website. We can see here how the Budget will be spent in 2015.

For example, you can see that, for each RD\$ 100 the government spends in 2015, RD\$ 30 will be for paying public debt obligations. RD\$ 20 will go towards education, to comply with the General Education Law that mandates a budget equivalent to 4% of GDP for education. RD\$ 9 will go to health, you heard, Doctor? Another RD\$ 9 will go to social security and assistance programs, which benefit the poorest and neediest segments of the population. You heard, Juana? That's for health insurance and conditional cash transfers that benefit some of the low-income people you have working in your shop and their families. And, so on. Pass my cell around and check it out, but do give it back before my battery dies!

### Where will the National Budget's money go to in 2015?



- Public debt payments: Also known as public debt service, includes interest payments, commissions, and credit to capital of loans owned by the government.
- Other General Services: includes national defence and international relations
- Other Economic Services: includes agriculture, forestry, irrigation, hunting, fishing, industries, commerce, economic and labour affairs, banking and insurance, communications, mining, manufacturing and construction.
- Other Social Services: includes housing and community services, sports and recreation, and culture and religion.
- Environmental protection: programs for the protection of air, water, soil resources, biodiversity and waste management.

You know, I think I'm now understanding better how the government spends the money. Miss, I saw that you teachers continue to be taken into account in the 2015 Budget.



Juana, it's not just in education that there has been an increase in expenditure. As you saw in the 100 pesos illustration that Jonathan showed, the greatest expenditure by the government will go towards social services, such as education, health, social security and protection, for example.



That's right, Juana. Among the services where the government will invest, there are basic health prevention services, such as the regular blood pressure and diabetes screening, which you have been postponing for a while and should come to the clinic for.

Remember that's free in all hospitals and Primary Care Units. And don't you worry about the cost of prescriptions because either at the Primary Care Unit or at the Popular Pharmacy of the Essential Medicine Program we'll help you take care of that.





What I will certainly do, to deal with my high blood pressure is to listen to Miss Miguelina's advice and ask for a microcredit loan so I can improve my shop.

## Mechanic Shop



Juana, don't be stubborn, and go get your preventive physical exam. And, listen, I want you to please register in the adult literacy program named "Quisqueya Learns with You". Don't be ashamed, because you do know that learning how to read and write well is what will allow you to truly make progress in life, don't you think?

Yeah, you are right, Miss, I will register.





Jose, please give a cold fruit juice, quickly please, because I must get to school and start class soon.

Oh, good morning, Miss Miguelina, it's nice to see you! Here we are, working hard, trying to maximize the benefits of the financing we got through the Special Fund for Agricultural Development (FEDA).



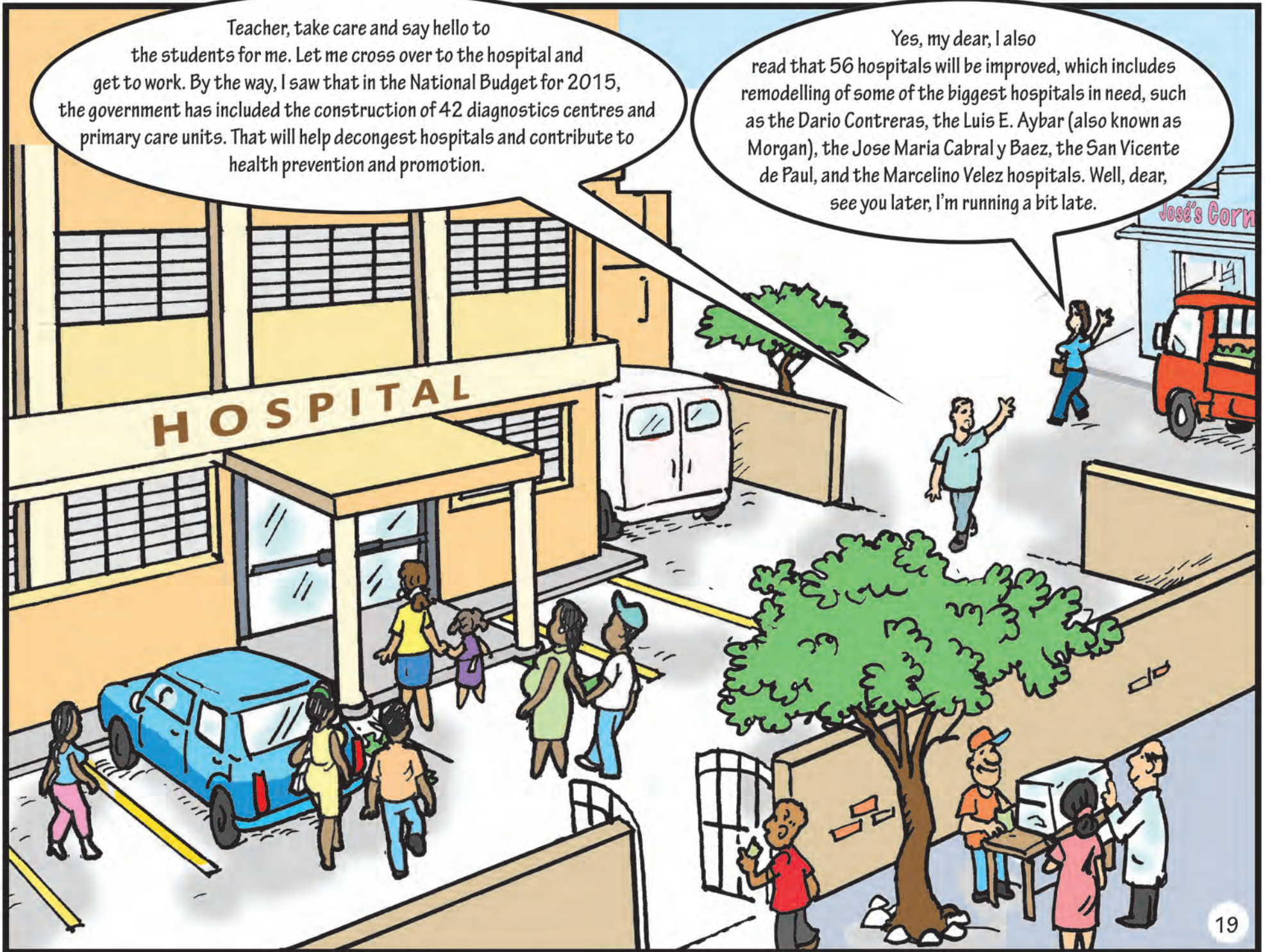
That's great to hear, Neno, praise the Lord! I can tell you're making progress. It's like I always say: no matter if you are from the city or the country, if you make the most out of the opportunities you have and work hard, you will get far.

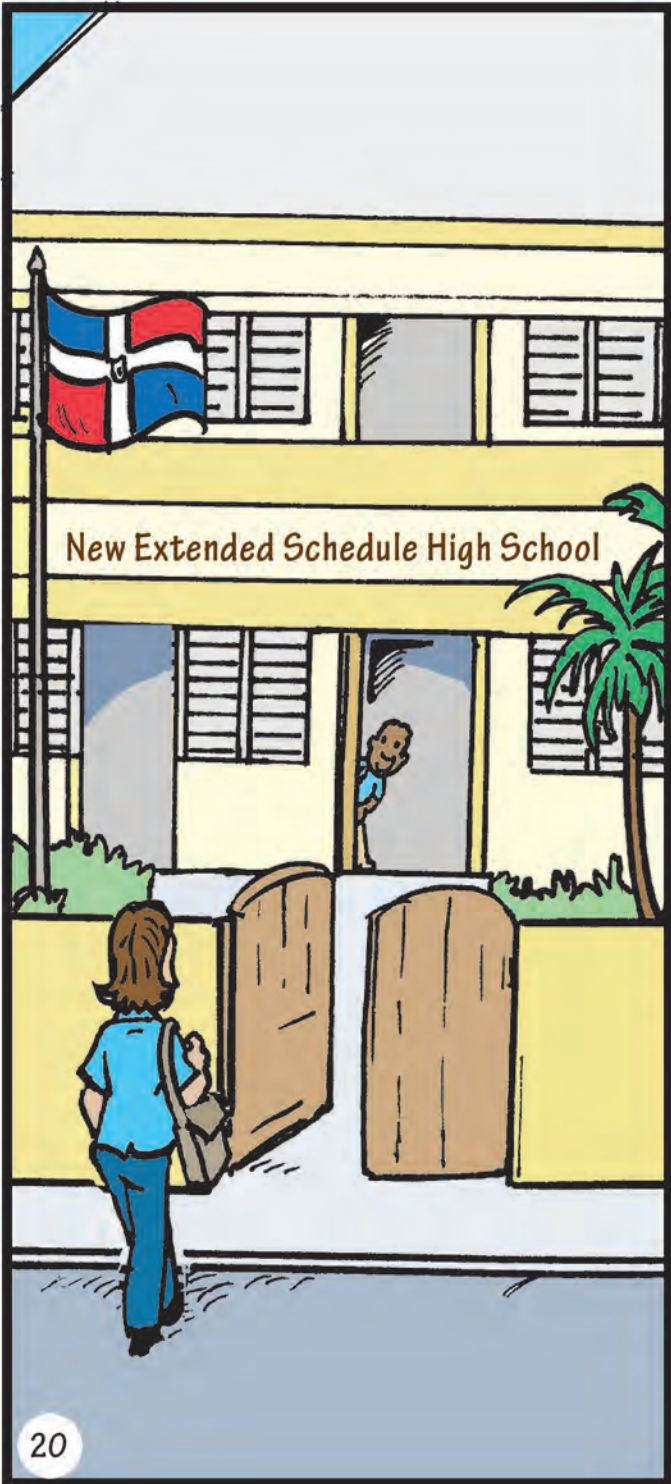
My only hope is that now that you have access to all that credit the government is offering, that you will at least consider selling those vegetables cheaper, Neno.



Teacher, take care and say hello to the students for me. Let me cross over to the hospital and get to work. By the way, I saw that in the National Budget for 2015, the government has included the construction of 42 diagnostics centres and primary care units. That will help decongest hospitals and contribute to health prevention and promotion.

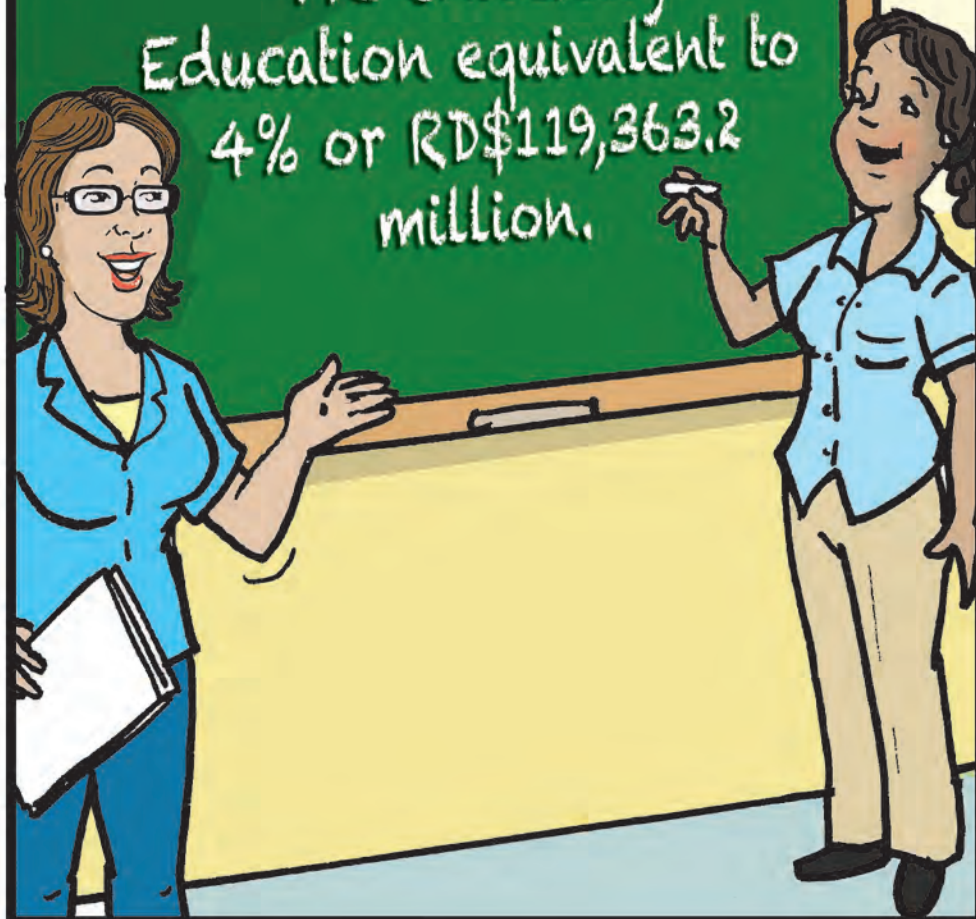
Yes, my dear, I also read that 56 hospitals will be improved, which includes remodelling of some of the biggest hospitals in need, such as the Dario Contreras, the Luis E. Aybar (also known as Morgan), the Jose Maria Cabral y Baez, the San Vicente de Paul, and the Marcelino Velez hospitals. Well, dear, see you later, I'm running a bit late.





As you can see here, the government continues to comply with the General Education Law as promised, as it has assigned an amount equivalent to 4% of GDP to pre-undergraduate education. With these resources, the government will cover the construction of 6,036 classrooms and 80 day-care centres...

Investment in  
Pre-University  
Education equivalent to  
4% or RD\$119,363.2  
million.



... training of more than 50,000 teachers, enrolment of close to 2.2 million students, the extended-schedule school, the School-Feeding Programme for 1.4 million students, among others. For the homework that you have for tomorrow, about the main details of the 2015 National Budget, take a look at the data that Altigracia has written on the board. And prepare well because tomorrow there will be a knowledge contest!



For more information visit the webpage:

<http://www.digepres.gob.do>

If you wish to request any specific information, you can send an email to [info@digepres.gob.do](mailto:info@digepres.gob.do) or contact the Access to Information Office with attention to:

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Telephone: 809-687-7121, Ext. 285 Fax: 809-221-7202

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*Al servicio  
de las personas  
y las naciones*