



DAYS 51–60

HEALTHCARE

Strengthening the Health of the Nation

A healthy population is the foundation of a productive and prosperous country. When people have access to quality healthcare, children are more likely to thrive, adults can work and support their families, and communities become stronger and more resilient. Healthcare is not simply about treating illness, it is about preventing disease, promoting wellness, and ensuring that every citizen has the opportunity to live a healthy and dignified life.

Although Cameroon has made progress in expanding healthcare services, many citizens still face significant challenges. Hospitals are often overcrowded, medical equipment may be outdated or unavailable, healthcare workers are unevenly distributed across the country, and many families struggle to afford medical treatment. Rural communities, in particular, often have limited access to quality healthcare.

During Days 51–60, the government will begin implementing reforms designed to improve access, strengthen healthcare infrastructure, and prepare the country for a modern and equitable healthcare system that serves every Cameroonian.

1. Begin Work on a National Health Insurance Framework

One of the greatest barriers to healthcare is cost. Many families delay seeking medical attention because they cannot afford consultations, medications, surgery, or hospital admissions. In some cases, people are forced to sell property or borrow money simply to pay medical bills.

The government will begin developing a **National Health Insurance Framework** that aims to make healthcare more affordable and accessible for all citizens.

National health insurance allows individuals, employers, and the government to contribute toward a shared healthcare system. Instead of families carrying the full financial burden when illness occurs, healthcare costs are shared across the population, helping protect citizens from catastrophic medical expenses.

The framework will outline how the program will operate, who will contribute, who will qualify for support, and what services will be covered.

The long-term goal is to ensure that no Cameroonian is denied essential healthcare simply because they cannot afford to pay.

Prepare National Health Insurance Legislation

The Ministry of Health, working alongside legal experts, economists, healthcare professionals, labour organizations, and civil society, will begin drafting legislation to establish the National Health Insurance Program.

The proposed legislation will address important questions such as:

- who will be eligible to participate,
- how contributions will be collected,
- how vulnerable populations such as children, senior citizens, and low-income families will be protected,
- which healthcare services will be covered,

- how healthcare providers will be reimbursed,
- how the system will be monitored to prevent fraud and misuse.

The legislation will also include safeguards to ensure financial sustainability, transparency, and accountability.

Public consultations will be held so citizens can understand the proposed system and contribute their views before the law is finalized.

2. National Hospital Assessment

Improving healthcare requires understanding the current condition of hospitals and health facilities across the country.

The government will launch a nationwide **Hospital Assessment Program** to evaluate the state of public healthcare facilities and identify urgent areas for improvement.

This assessment will provide accurate information that will guide future investments and ensure that resources are directed where they are needed most.

Rather than making assumptions, the government will rely on evidence to make informed decisions.

Inspect Regional Hospitals

Regional hospitals provide specialized healthcare services to large populations and play an important role in the national healthcare system.

Inspection teams will visit every regional hospital to assess:

- the condition of buildings,
- availability of medical equipment,
- patient safety,
- cleanliness,
- emergency services,
- laboratory capacity,
- pharmaceutical supplies,
- operating theatres,
- diagnostic services.

The inspections will identify both strengths and areas requiring immediate investment.

Hospitals found to have serious deficiencies will be prioritized for renovation and support.

Inspect District Hospitals

District hospitals are often the first point of referral for patients outside major cities.

The government will conduct detailed assessments of district hospitals to determine whether they have the personnel, equipment, and infrastructure necessary to provide quality care.

The inspections will examine:

- outpatient services,
- maternity units,
- surgical capacity,
- emergency care,
- laboratory services,
- pharmacy operations,
- infection prevention measures,
- availability of essential medicines.

Strengthening district hospitals reduces pressure on larger regional hospitals and allows more people to receive quality care closer to home.

Assess Medical Equipment

Modern healthcare depends on reliable medical equipment.

Inspection teams will prepare a national inventory of medical equipment to determine:

- what equipment exists,
- what equipment is functioning properly,
- what requires repair,
- what needs replacement,
- where equipment shortages exist.

Special attention will be given to critical equipment such as:

- X-ray machines,
- ultrasound scanners,

- CT scanners,
- laboratory equipment,
- operating theatre equipment,
- oxygen systems,
- neonatal incubators,
- intensive care equipment.

Developing a national equipment inventory allows the government to plan future purchases more efficiently while avoiding unnecessary duplication.

Assess Healthcare Staffing

Buildings and equipment alone cannot provide healthcare without skilled professionals.

The assessment will evaluate staffing levels across the country, including:

- doctors,
- nurses,
- midwives,
- pharmacists,
- laboratory technicians,
- radiographers,
- specialists,
- community health workers.

The review will identify shortages by region, specialty, and facility type.

Particular attention will be given to rural communities where attracting healthcare workers has often been difficult.

The findings will guide future recruitment, training, and workforce planning.

3. Launch the Maternal and Child Health Initiative

Healthy mothers and healthy children are essential to the future of every nation.

Preventing maternal deaths and ensuring children receive proper healthcare during their earliest years improves long-term health outcomes and reduces preventable illnesses.

The government will launch a **Maternal and Child Health Initiative** to strengthen healthcare services for women, newborns, infants, and young children.

This initiative recognizes that investing in maternal and child health is one of the most effective ways to improve national health indicators.

Improve Prenatal Care

Pregnancy is one of the most important periods in a family's life, yet many women do not receive adequate prenatal care.

The government will strengthen prenatal services by ensuring that pregnant women have better access to:

- regular health check-ups,
- blood pressure monitoring,
- nutritional counseling,
- screening for pregnancy complications,
- laboratory testing,
- ultrasound services where available,
- education on safe pregnancy and childbirth.

Healthcare workers will also provide guidance on breastfeeding, newborn care, and postpartum recovery.

Improved prenatal care reduces complications during pregnancy and increases the likelihood of healthy deliveries.

Expand Childhood Vaccination Programs

Vaccination remains one of the most effective and affordable ways to prevent serious diseases.

The government will expand immunization programs to ensure that more children receive routine vaccines on schedule.

The expansion will include:

- increasing vaccine availability,
- strengthening cold-chain storage systems,
- improving distribution to remote communities,
- expanding community awareness campaigns,
- reducing missed vaccination appointments,
- improving electronic record keeping where possible.

High vaccination coverage protects not only individual children but entire communities by reducing the spread of preventable diseases.

Strengthen Rural Healthcare Outreach

Many rural communities remain far from hospitals and clinics, making it difficult for residents to receive regular medical care.

The government will expand rural healthcare outreach through mobile clinics and community health programs that bring healthcare closer to people rather than requiring people to travel long distances.

Services may include:

- prenatal and postnatal care,
- childhood immunizations,
- health education,
- nutrition counseling,
- screening for chronic diseases,
- family planning services,
- treatment of common illnesses,
- referral to higher-level facilities when necessary.

Community health workers will play a central role by serving as trusted links between healthcare facilities and local communities.

This approach ensures that people living in remote areas are not left behind in the nation's healthcare improvements.

Expected Outcomes

By the end of the first 60 days, the government will have taken important steps toward building a stronger and more equitable healthcare system. A National Health Insurance Framework will be under development to make healthcare more affordable, while nationwide hospital assessments will provide a clear picture of infrastructure, equipment, and staffing needs. At the same time, the Maternal and Child Health Initiative will begin improving prenatal care, expanding childhood vaccination programs, and strengthening rural healthcare outreach. Together, these actions will lay the foundation for a healthcare system that is more accessible, better equipped, and focused on prevention as well as treatment, ensuring that every Cameroonian has a fair opportunity to live a healthier life.