

NEWS

Boyce: Diabetes costs high

ALL THE COSTS associated with diabetes – financial, emotional and social – are high, Minister of Health John Boyce says.

Boyce made the comment while delivering the main address at a ceremony during which a bus was donated to the Diabetes Association of Barbados at Simpson Motors in Warrens, St Michael last Wednesday

The minister said: “Treating diabetes and other chronic non-communicable diseases (CNCs) is costly and data on the economic burden of non-

communicable diseases, reported in **Stemming the Tide Of Non-Communicable Diseases In The Caribbean**, the working document of the landmark Head of Government Summit on CNCs, held in September 2007 revealed that the direct costs for managing diabetes in Barbados amounted to approximately \$75 million. . . .

“Another study on diabetes in Latin American and the Caribbean estimated a productivity loss of US\$65 billion and it is clear from these figures that managing diabetes



MONSIGNOR VINCENT BLACKETT followed by Minister of Health John Boyce disembarking the new bus of the Diabetes Association of Barbados. (Picture by Ricardo Leacock.)

and other NCDs impose a high economic cost and these costs do not include the social or emotional costs that result from amputations or the early death of a parent, a spouse or a worker.”

Boyce said many people with diabetes had been able to achieve better control and management of the condition because of the work of

the Diabetes Association. The bus was donated by Republic Bank (Barbados) Limited, with a number of agencies providing some services.

Managing Director & CEO of Republic Bank, Ian De Souza, said: “The contribution of this mobile unit to the Diabetes Association of Barbados to facilitate its community outreach programmes

was deemed to be absolutely critical.

“As we envision it, the Diabetes Association can now not only continue its education programmes, but it can go into communities across Barbados to conduct diabetes testing, teach and help monitor the correct administration of diabetes medications and conduct foot examinations

with the assistance of a chiropodist.

“We are contributing this vehicle – outfitted for all these things – with the objective of reversing this trend of rising diabetes and lower-extremity amputations that earned this country such a disturbing and unfortunate moniker.”

(RL)