

# *Guatemalan congress recognizes work of the Cuban Medical Brigade*

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## **The Health Commission of Congress recognized the work of the Cuban Medical Brigade in Guatemala**

Guatemala City, Dec 8 (RHC) The Health Commission of Congress recognized the work of the Cuban Medical Brigade in Guatemala, where it is currently present in 16 of the 22 departments of that country.

The balance of the work of the legislative chamber, chaired by Congressman Hebert Figueroa, and which was attended by Health Minister Francisco Coma, took into account "the leadership, commitment, perseverance, and dedication of the doctors from the island, whose results translate into the welfare and health of Guatemalans".

Cuban Medical Brigade 's National Coordinator, Mariheta Cutiño, received the distinction on behalf of the more than 400 collaborators who provide their services here in remote communities and villages.

On November 5, the mission celebrated 24 years of uninterrupted presence in the land of the Quetzal, since the arrival of the first doctors in 1998 upon the official request for help from the government of Álvaro Arzú to Cuba.

A country devastated by the passage of Hurricane Mitch through Central America was the scenario in which the first collaborators arrived in that country, a humanitarian alliance that still remains, despite internal campaigns to try to discredit a work recognized by its main beneficiaries, the most remote and forgotten

communities and villages.

Since then, successive brigades have been traveling the complex national geography and today there are four ophthalmological centers as part of Operation Miracle, a program of totally free cataract surgeries with highly qualified personnel.

Also in December last year, the Cuban Medical Brigade was recognized as a "Hero in the fight against COVID-19", but by the Human Rights Commission of the Legislative.

"For the dedication and sacrifice shown in the front line of attention to the pandemic, protecting the right to life and health of Guatemalans," said the plaque that the then Human Rights Ombudsman, Jordán Rodas, placed in the hands of the aid workers.

Twenty-four years later, the Cuban Medical Brigade ratified to the Guatemalan Health authorities the willingness to continue a work that they define as one of infinite love and solidarity with those in need. (Source: Prensa Latina).

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