

# THE BOLQUES BULLETIN

A Bimestrial Update from the Office of Angel Bolques Jr. Senator-At-Large  
 St. John Office: 340-776-6285 | St. Thomas Office: 340-693-3571 | St. Croix Office: 340-712-2278



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENATOR-AT-LARGE

Welcome to this edition of the Bolques Bulletin, where we spotlight initiatives that showcase our commitment to forward-thinking collaboration and proactive leadership for the Virgin Islands. From our enlightening visits to the Arecibo Micro Grid, promising a sustainable clean energy future, to engaging dialogues with Deputy Adelys Olivares about strengthening diaspora connections, each story highlights our dynamic approach to governance. At Knowledge24, we immersed ourselves in cutting-edge discussions on cybersecurity, digital medical solutions, and digital transformation, preparing to bring those advancements home. Meanwhile, the grand reopening of the Clinton E. Phipps track celebrated both a storied legacy and the exciting return of horse racing to our region. These stories reflect our collective effort and vision, aiming to create a resilient and prosperous future for all Virgin Islanders. Let's keep building on these opportunities with enthusiasm, unity, and dedication.

Wholeheartedly, Angel Bolques Jr. Senator-At-Large

## PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF ENERGY IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

My Office successfully organized site visits to the Arecibo Micro Grid in Puerto Rico with the Director of Energy for focused field discussions centered on enhancing energy resilience through innovative microgrid technology. This facility boasts a 5MW solar array and a 1.1MW battery storage system, designed to cut energy costs by 25% while boosting grid reliability in areas vulnerable to natural disasters. The visit featured a significant ribbon-cutting at Eaton's new facility, marking a major step forward in resilient clean energy solutions for Puerto Rico and perhaps even the Virgin Islands.

Networking with industry leaders like Mike Yelton, President, Electrical Sector of Eaton; Victor Mojica, Project Manager - Arecibo Micro Grid, Matt Barnes, Head of Enel Energy Systems America; esteemed Puerto Rican Senators, Omar J. Marrero Díaz, Secretary of State of Puerto Rico, Manuel Laboy Rivera, Secretary of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce and Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Industrial Development Company, Agustín F. Carbó, Director of the Puerto Rico Grid Recovery and Modernization Team at the DOE; Harold Jones, Chief Sustainability Officer and Executive Vice President, Eaton Business System, and Thomas "Tommy" E. Kierce, APR, Director of Business Development at Lord Construction Group, Inc. underscored the collaborative effort towards sustainable energy development. This visit exemplifies the potential of microgrids in transforming energy infrastructure, setting a powerful precedent for future initiatives. It promises a brighter, more sustainable future for the Caribbean, demonstrating the critical role of advanced energy solutions in building a resilient energy landscape.



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## RELATIONSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

I had the honor to meet with Adelys Olivares, a ranking member of the Dominican Republic's Chamber of Deputies who represents the Dominican diaspora from Puerto Rico. One of seven overseas deputies, Olivares serves Dominicans in 30 countries worldwide. Her legislative achievements include Home Care programs for those with special needs, social policies that support families affected by migration, and promoting Dominican culture abroad. Olivares has worked on developing a reciprocal social security system, reducing repatriation costs, and facilitating the diaspora's reintegration through legislative reforms. Her dedication to advancing gender equality in political and legislative areas is noteworthy. Our meeting sparked optimism for future collaborations that could benefit the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic, underscoring Olivares's impact on diaspora policies. I am looking forward to working with her in the near future.

## THE FUTURE OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

I recently attended Knowledge24, networking with global tech leaders and discussing cybersecurity, medical technology, and digital transformation. Alongside Senate President Francis Jr. and Director Ross, we gained insights that promise significant advancements for the Virgin Islands. We're excited about the potential of these technologies to transform our government's operations and service delivery. Moving forward, I am eager to finalize legislative work on cybersecurity and drive digital transformation initiatives that will revolutionize service in our territory. The path ahead is promising, and we are dedicated to turning these opportunities into tangible benefits for our people and the technological empowerment of the Virgin Islands.



## HORSE RACING RETURNS AND TRIBUTE TO CLINTON E. PHIPPS

I recently attended the grand opening of the renewed Clinton E. Phipps track, marking the exciting return of horse racing to the Virgin Islands. During the event, we witnessed an inspiring moment as the Phipps family received the Humanitarian Award posthumously awarded to Mr. Clinton E. Phipps. This prestigious recognition celebrates Mr. Phipps' dedication to V.I. Horse Racing and his extensive humanitarian efforts. Mr. Phipps' commitment to "The Sport of Kings" and his service to the community have left an enduring legacy that will be remembered for generations. It was a privilege to meet his son, Mr. Clayton Phipps at this event, reinforcing the lasting impact of his family's legacy. Congratulations to the Phipps family and the bright future of horse racing in our Caribbean region.

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