



Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce announces major event for the island's economic growth

The Forum: Private Enterprise and Government will serve as a platform where business and government leaders will gather to discuss critical reforms and collaboration opportunities.

The Forum: Private Enterprise and Government, organized by the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce (PRCC), will bring together leaders from the private and government sectors to engage in discussions and foster collaboration for Puerto Rico's economic development.

"We are very excited about this forum. It is a unique opportunity for business and government leaders to work together in creating solutions that drive economic growth and enhance the well-being of our community," said PRCC President, Attorney Luis E. Pizarro Otero.

The event, scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, at the Hilton Garden Inn, will feature distinguished panelists who will discuss key topics for Puerto Rico's economic development. Several panels will be held, each focusing on a specific area.

The first panel, titled "Ease of Doing Business" or Permitting System, will be moderated by Attorney Alicia Lamboy, Chair of the Environment and Permits Committee and former PRCC president. It will feature prominent figures such as Héctor Gabriel González, Chair of the Senate Commission on Planning, Permits, Infrastructure, and Urbanism; Sergio Estévez, Chair of the House Commission on Small Businesses and Permitting; Architect Roberto Alsina, partner at JCM Enterprises; Jonathan J. Malavé, President of Grupo Arlequín LLC; and Engineer José Rossi, President of Aireko Companies and former President of the Puerto Rico Association of Engineers. These panelists will discuss ways to streamline business processes on the island.

The second group will focus on Tax Reform, with CPA & attorney Kenneth Rivera Robles as the moderator. Among the invited panelists are Ángel Pantoja, Secretary of the Department of Treasury; Migdalia Padilla Alvelo, President of the Senate Committee on Treasury, Budget, and PROMESA; Eddie Charbonier Chinaea, President of the House of Representatives Committee on Treasury; and CPA & Attorney Denisse Flores, Partner at PwC and former President of the Puerto Rico Society of Certified Public Accountants. They will discuss the necessary fiscal reforms for the region's economic progress.

The third panel will be dedicated to Education and will be moderated by Dr. Waleska Crespo, President of the PRCC Education Committee and president of the Universidad



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Central del Caribe. Participants will include Eliezer Ramos Páres, Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Education; Brenda Pérez Soto, President of the Senate Committee on Education, Art, and Culture; Tatiana Pérez Ramírez, President of the House of Representatives Committee on Education; Rafael Ramírez Rivera, President of the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico; Michael Fernández-Frey, Executive Director and Co-founder of Caras con Causa; and Héctor Ríos Mauri, Professor of Administration and International Trade at the University of Puerto Rico's Business Administration Faculty.

The fourth group will be moderated by Joanisabel González, Business Editor at *El Nuevo Día* newspaper. This panel, focused on Economic Development, will include Sebastián Negrón Reichard, Secretary of the Department of Economic Development and Commerce; Nitza Morán Trinidad, President of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, Banking, Commerce, Insurance, and Cooperativism; Joel Franqui Atilas, President of the House of Representatives Economic Development Committee; Attorney Eduardo Soria, Executive Director of the Central Office for Recovery, Reconstruction, and Resilience (COR3); CPA and Attorney Francisco Luis, Partner/Head of Tax at Kevane Grant Thornton; and Eli Sepúlveda, Executive Vice President of the Credit and Commercial Services Group at Popular, Inc.

The Governor of Puerto Rico, Jenniffer González Colón, has been invited to the event. Special addresses will be given by the President of the Senate, Thomas Rivera Schatz, and the President of the House of Representatives, Carlos "Johnny" Méndez Núñez. They will emphasize the importance of collaboration between the private sector and the government to promote the island's development.

Finally, the Executive Director of the PRCC, Attorney Liza M. García, stated: "This forum is a testament to the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce's commitment to fostering constructive dialogue between the private sector and the government. We firmly believe that through collaboration and the exchange of ideas, we can achieve significant progress for our island," she concluded".

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About the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce:

The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit organization with a business-oriented perspective that represents a wide range of trade and industry sectors, from large corporations to small businesses, with multisectoral representation. Its mission is to strengthen economic development and progress, based on the pillars of free enterprise, to ensure business certainty and improve the quality of life for all Puerto Ricans. Additionally, the organization serves as the voice of businesses in Puerto Rico, representing all commercial, industrial, and professional activities that form the foundation of the island's economy.



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