



Tapping into the cruise industry's full potential is part of our strategic plan to increase passenger arrivals to our Island. Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC) statistics forecast we will end this past fiscal year with a 14 percent increase, for a total of 1.5 million visitors. The upward trend is expected to continue with a 16 percent increase of passengers in the current fiscal year. We should all form a partnership to grow this important segment of the tourism economy.

In addition, we are making important inroads in medical tourism, not only by strengthening our local offer with board-certified physicians in most specialties but also by attracting major players from the United States. Currently, we have 14 top-rated, local providers with many more seeking the proper certification. Six U.S.-based companies have taken advantage of our tax-incentive laws to open back offices in the island and are expected to open full-service clinics in the im-

mediate future. Among them are Lumix Health, Miami Medical Solutions, and Next Health.

Times are ripe with opportunity. The rhythm of life is fast and intense and only those with the right tools will reap the benefits. We must adopt, adapt, and strategize at the speed of light.

I have the finger on the pulse of Puerto Rico's economy, and if we keep playing the cards right, Puerto Rico will become the Hong Kong of the Caribbean for those with an entrepreneur thirst, the Wall Street of the Caribbean for those with a keen business vision, and the Las Vegas of the Caribbean for the free-spirited.

Puerto Rico, closer than Singapore and more competitive than Miami! We are open for business. Let's do it together.