

PRESS RELEASE

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VI Government To Transform Electric Power Infrastructure

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Premier and Minister of Finance Honourable Dr. Natalio Wheatley has given the assurance that the Virgin Islands is very committed to transforming its electric power infrastructure, particularly in transitioning to sustainable sources.

The Premier was addressing the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC) 2025 Symposium and Lineworkers Rodeo hosted by the Territory for the first time. Premier Wheatley said that the government was on the verge of transitioning the sister island of Anegada's power to 90 percent solar-generated, with a solar farm project nearing completion.

Premier Wheatley stated, "My government has implemented some incentives to encourage residents and businesses to transition to solar energy, with the option of selling excess power back to the grid to recoup the set-up cost and eventually provide participating customers with some income. With the assistance of the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College, we have trained several persons in solar installation, repair, and maintenance."

The Premier added, "As these initiatives gain momentum, the Virgin Islands will experience a growing demand for skilled professionals, private entrepreneurs, and the BVI Electricity Corporation to deliver the necessary services."

Premier Wheatley anticipates that similar trends will emerge in other countries as well and this underscores the critical importance of the work being done by CARILEC and its members.

Meanwhile, Minister for Communications and Works Honourable Kye M. Rymer said this year's symposium offered a platform for knowledge exchange, and brought together experts to discuss the latest advancements in field operations, safety regulations, and emerging technologies.

Honourable Rymer said, "The Government of the Virgin Islands remains steadfast in its commitment to developing electricity production and distribution throughout this territory. We recognise that a reliable and resilient energy infrastructure is crucial for economic growth, environmental sustainability, and the well-being of our citizens. Through investments in renewable energy, smart grid technologies, and capacity building, we are paving the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for

these beautiful Virgin Islands.”

Among the activities held over the weekend was a March Pass followed by the Marquee Rodeo by teams from the various countries. Antigua Public Utilities Authority are this year’s winners of the rodeo. Team BVIEC walked away with 5 prizes

The symposium and rodeo were held under the theme, **“Informed. Empowered. Safe.”**

The Government of the Virgin Islands continues to demonstrate their unwavering commitment to sustaining development in the Territory’s infrastructure that is equal to international standards.

Gallery

