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### *Governor signs off on Public-Private Partnership legislation*

“Today we bet on Puerto Rican entrepreneurship, our commitment and creativity, and our desire to grow together, in partnership, to change our course and build a better Puerto Rico.”, stated Luis G. Fortuño, Governor of Puerto Rico, after signing off on the legislation that leads to the Public-Private Partnerships, during an event held on Route 66, where work continues in the first phase in this important thoroughfare. This important legislation promotes Partnerships between the public and private sector to boost infrastructure work, creating jobs and maximizing resources to benefit the people. The legislative measure, which was signed into law today, establishes the Public-Private Partnerships Authority (PPPA), a public corporation within the Government of Puerto Rico that will be attached to the Government Development Bank (GDB). The PPPA will consist of a Board of Directors, including the President of the GDB, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the Planning Board and two persons appointed by the Governor, who shall be recommended by the President of the Senate and House the of Representatives, respectively. The Authority is the only government entity authorized and responsible for implementing public policy on these Partnerships, and will determine the functions, services or facilities for which such partnerships will be established.

According to Fortuño, “this way infrastructure projects can be developed, government assets can be operated, or some essential service can be provided in a time of fiscal failure in Government.”

Initiatives let the non-government partner to assume the responsibilities of project development, in exchange for a reasonable profit for your operation. During today’s activity, the Governor highlighted the positive impact that projects such as the extension of Route 66—which could be developed through Public-Private Partnerships—could have in the quality of life of thousands of Puerto Ricans. “The extension of this road will benefit municipalities from Carolina to Fajardo,” said the Governor. Currently, the Administration has identified nine projects, including the extension of Route 66, to be developed through Public-Private Partnerships.

To evaluate each proposed project, the PPPA will establish a partnership committee for each initiative. The Board of Directors and the Committee will divide the responsibilities of evaluating projects at various stages. The Board will assess the desirability and suitability of the developments and projects assigned to the Partnership Committees. The Committee, in turn, will request qualifications and proposals, select bidders and negotiate contracts, among other functions that they will be responsible for. The Board shall provide the final recommendation of the bidder and the contract, together with the government entity related to the project. The Governor or his designee will make the final decision. “Through these alliances, we can determine how to boost strategic infrastructure projects, using our best engineers, our most skilled carpenters and laborers, and together, rebuild our economy and put Puerto Rico to work,” the Governor reported, while stressing that “these Partnerships do not involve the transfer of ownership of any public good, and they continue to belong the government. “The creation of these partnerships allow us not only to achieve greater investment in infrastructure by the private sector but also create thousands of jobs in the short and long term, that will directly benefit our Puerto Rican families,” said the Chief Executive.