GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

STATEMENT

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Remarks by Minister for Communications and Works, Honourable Kye Rymer on 2025 CARILEC Line Workers Rodeo, Symposium, and Field Safety Training

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Good morning, it is with great pride and anticipation, we gather here in the Virgin Islands for the 2025 CARILEC Line Workers Rodeo, Symposium, and Field Safety Training. This event is particularly special as it marks the first time we are hosting such a prestigious occasion, and I am excited to welcome you all to our shores. Under the theme “Informed. Empowered. Safe,” we celebrate not only our collective achievements but also the spirit of camaraderie that unites us in the energy sector.

Let us take a moment to recognise the incredible teams joining us from across the Caribbean. Line workers from various islands are here, each bringing unique skills and a commitment to excellence, embodying the strength and solidarity of our region.

As line workers, you are the unsung heroes who ensure that power flows seamlessly throughout our communities, even in the face of adversity. Your expertise, courage, and unwavering dedication are the backbone of our energy

infrastructure. Whether it's restoring power after a storm, maintaining critical systems, or embracing new technologies, you are at the forefront of our industry's evolution.

I want to take a moment to encourage each of you to embrace this competition and the learning opportunities that come with it. Just as I once attempted to climb a tree—a feat that seemed simple but proved quite challenging—I learned that the journey often teaches us more than the destination. I faced a few slips and slides, but with perseverance and the support of friends below, I eventually reached a branch where I could see the world from a new perspective. Similarly, this event is not just about winning; it’s about learning, growing, and supporting one another.

This year's symposium offers a platform for knowledge exchange, bringing together experts to discuss the latest advancements in field operations, safety regulations, and emerging technologies. The field safety training sessions provide hands-on experiences, reinforcing best practices and emergency response strategies. Together, these initiatives aim to elevate our standards and promote a culture of safety and excellence within the energy sector.

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.

To all participants, I encourage you to embrace the challenges ahead with determination and teamwork. Let this event inspire you to continue striving for excellence, empower one another, and uphold the highest standards of safety and professionalism. Together, we are not just powering homes; we are powering progress.

To the team representing the Virgin Islands—Donaldson Hamlet, Edward Pollock, Shaquil Samuel, Toriano King, Lenoox Matthew, Lionel Smith, and Jio Vonni Croal—I

wish you all the best as you participate in this competition. May your hard work and dedication shine brightly with VI Pride. Let’s rally together to celebrate a historic three-peat!

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the General Manager, Dr. Neil Smith, for his unwavering support and dedication to moving the BVI Electricity Corporation forward.

Thank you, and I hope this event creates some of your greatest memories.

Let the games begin!