

We are aware that the world is facing a difficult economic situation, which cannot be transformed from within Puerto Rico. What we can do is refocus our energy and efforts to strengthen our island's economy and our own companies.



*Héctor del Río*

There are countless ways to activate Puerto Rico's economy, including speeding up bid processes and maximizing the stimulus funds extended to Puerto Rico by President Barack Obama through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Today, with great desire to work, we patiently await bids to jumpstart the economy and create much-needed jobs.

To closely evaluate the use of ARRA funds, we created a barometer that will allow us to measure the amount of bids issued and their effect on the economy. It is vital to use even the last penny and this is why we believe it is crucial for us to be able to measure the government's efforts.

Throughout my career, I have learned that things that are not measured do not improve. The barometer we have created will serve as an excellent tool to measure the speed with which bids are issued and awarded but, most importantly, their real impact on the island.

In addition, another key achievement was the passing of the Down Payment Act after years of hard work by the members of the General Contractors Association.

As part of his campaign commitment, Gov. Luis Fortuño recently signed the Down Payment Act, which has been a key success for our organization. Although this law will not be enacted until 2010, its approval acknowledges that the government cannot continue its practice of expecting the construction industry to continue financing Puerto Rico's infrastructure.