



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Visit to Indonesia

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central— ALP) (Premier) (9.39 a.m.), by leave: I am pleased to table my report on my official visit to Indonesia last week. The advent of a new administration in Jakarta under President Wahid and Vice-President Megawati has presented Queensland and Australia with an unparalleled opportunity to turn the page on recent events and to build on our long-standing relationships with Indonesia. My meeting with both the President and Vice-President have confirmed that.

The results of my visit, the first of any Premier to visit Indonesia and meet with the President since the election of President Wahid, has surpassed my expectations and I believe puts Queensland in a strong position to achieve increasing business links and opportunities in Indonesia. Trade means jobs.

The objectives of my mission were to reconfirm Queensland's position as a committed and valued trading partner at high levels of the Indonesian Government; to reinforce the sister-State relationship signed with Central Java in the 1991-92 period; to strengthen economic and business relationships by promoting Queensland companies, products, services and investment opportunities; and encouraging commercial linkages between Queensland organisations and businesses in Indonesia, specifically to promote Queensland's capacity and companies in the mining and mining services sector at Mining Indonesia 2000, a conference that I addressed.

In tabling my report, it is this last aspect I want to briefly highlight to the House. At the invitation of the Indonesian Mining Council I presented the keynote address at South-East Asia's biggest mining equipment and services conference and exhibition in Jakarta. The subject of my address was: Queensland-Indonesia Mining, Cooperation in the New Millennium. Queensland's mining sector has an enormous amount to offer the Indonesian mining industry and our mining expertise is particularly relevant to mining projects in the remote conditions of such a vast nation of islands as Indonesia. The 17 Queensland companies exhibiting at and attending Mining Indonesia 2000 provided an excellent sample of the goods and services Queensland can offer. Australia had the largest stand in the Mining Indonesia 2000 exhibition and Queensland the largest in the pavilion, right at the entrance. Under the theme Resourceful Queensland, Queensland's stand at the exhibition provided a range of products and services from software, education and environmental management services to the general engineering of specialised mining equipment and mine supplies. I opened both stands with the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, John McCarthy.

Queensland's participation in Mining Indonesia 2000 was part of the push to increase exports of value-added products and services. Queensland is an ideal partner for the Indonesian mining sector as it continues to develop and make such an important contribution to the Indonesian economy. Both Indonesia and Queensland are rich in mineral and energy resources and the mining industry is a good example of the way in which cooperation and collaboration can be developed.

Queensland's expertise in mining technology and mining and support operations in remote areas is recognised throughout the world. Queensland companies already provide a range of technical and engineering services to operations in Indonesia, including coal, copper, gold and petroleum. We have the skills and knowledge to meet Indonesia's service and general infrastructure requirements, not

only in mining but in industries such as transport, communications, environmental management and education and training.

I am determined to strengthen the friendship and trade that exists between Indonesia and Queensland. I gave that message to the Indonesian Minister for Mines and Energy, Lieutenant General Bambang Yudohoyono, when we met to discuss future directions of mining in Indonesia. I raised concerns that the Queensland mining sector had about mining issues in Indonesia and the Minister took these on board in a very positive way. Existing contracts would be honoured, he indicated very clearly to me. He said matters involving devolution would certainly be dealt with and dealt with in a comprehensive way. He said that any complaint about illegal mining would be investigated on an individual basis. These were the three core issues which were pursued.

I also spoke to members of the Indonesian parliamentary mining sub-commission, whom I have invited to Queensland, and opened the new corporate headquarters of PT Thiess Contractors, Indonesia. Thiess has been a long-term investor in South-East Asia and this new office and the headquarters for their extensive operation in this region of the world is greatly appreciated and supported. This is the sort of partnership between Queensland and Indonesia that my Government is keen to foster, including Mincom, which is also extensively operational in Indonesia.

Mining is this State's single largest exporter, directly employing more than 20,000 people with another 60,000 jobs in related industries. We are also determined to support regional Queensland and businesses in their move into Indonesia.

I table my report plus attachments and supporting documents.
