



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Tuesday, 17 April 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Trade Mission to Africa

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.55 am): Mr Speaker, I wish to report on my recent trip to Africa, Kenya and the UK, particularly the African part. As you know, I led a successful trade mission to South Africa from 20 to 24 March which additionally included Kenya and the United Kingdom. With 24 delegates on this mission, my government continues to demonstrate just how serious we are about building international trade links. Climate change and growing mutual respect were key messages in my meeting with the South African President, Thabo Mbeki. I seek leave to incorporate details in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I am pleased to say President Mbeki additionally gave his support to our clean-coal initiatives.

Mr Speaker, this trade mission was the first by a Queensland Premier to post-apartheid South Africa. It was an honour to be there in this second decade of their freedom.

At an event with the Johannesburg Securities Exchange, I promoted our many export strengths and the benefits of partnerships like Anglo Coal.

I announced a Johannesburg office for the Brisbane-based International Water Centre, and my Government's \$10,000 contribution towards a postgraduate exchange scholarship.

I attended numerous meetings, including the signing of a potential multi-million dollar Memorandum of Understanding between Queensland's Union Switch & Signal and Botswana Railways.

Queensland's push into the lucrative African market is strong, and there is growing interest in our transport infrastructure solutions, especially in the lead up to South Africa's 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Mr Speaker, in Durban I signed a Friendship Cooperation Arrangement with the Governor of the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

This is the start of a promising new relationship with an important region of the country.

On behalf of Primary Industries and Fisheries, I also signed an accord with the University of KwaZulu-Natal to partner research, such as in the area of how climate change will impact on agriculture.

In another outcome, I was delighted to announce a fundraising match in Brisbane on July 1st between South Africa's Supersport United and Queensland Roar.

Finally, I am delighted to report the Australia Africa Business Council has agreed to host its annual conference in Queensland next year.

Mr Speaker, my Government will be encouraging trade visits in both directions as we continue to build on these robust foundations with southern Africa.