



Speech by

Desley Scott

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Hansard Thursday, 21 June 2012

ZINGIFUABORO, MR D

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (3.46 pm): In 2001 a refugee arrived in Australia from southern Sudan. He had trained for the priesthood in his home country but had never taken up his vocation. Instead he worked with International Food Aid, distributing food and assisting his people, but he ran foul of the authorities and was forced to flee into Kenya. It was here that he was given the opportunity to travel to Australia on our Refugee and Humanitarian Program. So it was that Daniel Zingifuaboro arrived in Logan City.

He first of all chose to study and complete a diploma in international business and was invited to join Access Services, our nationally and internationally recognised settlement agency, as their community development officer. Daniel is an entirely unique, big-hearted, wise and very understanding individual who has brought so much to his position. He then embarked on a masters in social science while taking on more responsibility at Access in his position of executive director prior to being appointed deputy CEO to Gail Ker, the heart of the organisation she founded.

Daniel is currently two subjects away from completing a law degree. Daniel's story would be remarkable if it remained at this point, but there is so much more to tell. Daniel has been president of the Sudanese Association of Queensland. He helped form the Queensland African Communities Council, and I well remember the night the new country of the Republic of South Sudan was born. The celebration at Yeronga State High School was electric. The hall was packed to the rafters. Hundreds of dancers rehearsed in their cultural groups outside the hall, and as each group took to the stage I wondered if the floor of the stage would hold up, such was their joy and exuberance. It was an unforgettable night.

Daniel, while being a superb leader, is also a devoted husband and father of two young children. However, Daniel is leaving us to a higher calling. The government of the Republic of South Sudan has now invited him to return to his homeland to take up a position in cabinet as the Minister for Local Government and Law Enforcement. What a tremendous honour for this wonderful humanitarian warrior who has worked tirelessly for his people, first on African soil and then in Australia. Last Friday the community in Logan held a joyous but sad farewell to Daniel. The hall was packed, and attendees included senior representatives from the department of immigration, Senator Mark Furner, the member for Logan and me, our deputy mayor and so many who have worked with Daniel as well as clients of the service. We wish Daniel and his family a safe and rewarding sojourn, but we want him to return to us. God go with you, Daniel, and a heartfelt thank you from a very grateful community.