

PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDS OF AFRICA

Statement

HON AYOR MAKUR CHUOT (North Metropolitan) [9.43 pm]: Sorry, guys; everybody wants to drive home, but it is good to be back! Thank you for giving me five weeks' leave to have my daughter, Ajak, who was born on 24 March. I am a new mum again. Thank you to all my parliamentary colleagues for keeping up with me.

Today has been an incredible day for me. I came back, and I had a very wonderful event that we hosted with my Parliamentary Friends of Africa co-convenors Hon Dr Steve Thomas; Meredith Hammat, member for Mirrabooka; and Terry Healy. We hosted a very wonderful event. How lucky we were. We were able to have the presence of the Premier of Western Australia, so that was amazing. Members of the community took a lot of selfies with the Premier. As we know, the Premier is really, really popular, so it was really great. We were also joined by many members of Parliament, of course, from the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. I am really, really proud. Thank you, guys. I thank all the honourable members from this chamber and, of course, all the Assembly members for their support. I also acknowledge you, President, for your support, and all the ministers. Thank you for joining the event.

It is really important for us as parliamentarians to connect with the communities that we represent and make sure they have that sense of belonging. That is really important to me. When I was elected, I think I created that sense of belonging to this Parliament, being the first South Sudanese member sitting in this chamber. I am so proud to be among all the MPs who are part of parliamentary groups, because I think it is important. It does not matter if we do all the organising, but it is important to give a sense of belonging to our Parliament because that is what it is.

Thank you very much, and everybody can go home now!