

Goodwill Address By  
Hon. **Monte Kwinter**  
*Member of Parliament (York Center)*  
*PA Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade*  
**at the Friends of Africa's Economic Development Conference  
and the Launch of Casa Foundation Fund for International Students**  
Toronto, Canada  
Saturday, October, 3, 2015

Thank for your kind introduction. Colleagues from all levels of government, experts and panelists, I bring warm greetings to all Friends of Africa this morning. I pondered that phrase, Friends of Africa, as I made my way here today. Human beings need friends. Indeed, friendship is one of the great human qualities. But why does a continent need friends? Perhaps the answer is simply that Africa is the most human of the continents.

In Africa are contained all the great virtues and contradictions of the human condition; triumph and tragedy, hope and despair, love and war, riches and poverty, beauty and squalor. Africa challenges us, because it never stops changing. In 2000 the *Economist* magazine referred to Africa as the “Hopeless Continent” – plagued by war, disease and economic mismanagement. Yet, by 2011 the same magazine referred to Africa as the “Rising Continent” and a March 2013 issue of the magazine called Africa the “Hopeful Continent” citing many positive developments. Africa will always have friends, because Africa is a good friend to have.

We believe Ontario's strengths can build Africa, as well as cultivate mutual trade and investment benefits that will complement our respective economies. Conferences like this are important. Decision makers and business owners can gather – debate, ask good questions, get great answers and build the relationships that are key to progress and prosperity. As a trading nation, Ontario needs to be more proactive to seek out new opportunities. As forward-thinking entrepreneurs and business leaders who are expanding your markets through trade, you are helping make our province more

Goodwill Address By  
Hon. **Monte Kwinter**  
*Member of Parliament (York Center)*  
*PA Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade*  
**at the Friends of Africa's Economic Development Conference**  
**and the Launch of Casa Foundation Fund for International Students**  
Toronto, Canada  
Saturday, October, 3, 2015

competitive. You are also showing the world what Ontario is capable of – the products, innovations and assets that we have to offer.

The most important things in engaging the world and expanding trade are relationships and identifying opportunities that are win-win. The next frontier in that effort is a breakthrough into the African continent. We are all friends of Africa. And we strive to be business partners as well. Today's partnerships could wield big results... for your businesses and for our economies. So I hope that you take advantage of the opportunities presented today and make the most of these connections.

Thank you.

Hon. Monte Kwinter  
Toronto  
3<sup>rd</sup>, October 2015