

GOOD MORNING, IT'S A PLEASURE TO BE HERE AMONG FRIENDS.

AND IT'S ALSO MY DISTINCT PLEASURE TO WELCOME HIS EXCELLENCY, AMBASSADOR BOUHLAL TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

JUST LAST NIGHT, I WELCOMED A DELEGATION FROM QATAR.

THEY'RE HOSTING THE WORLD CUP IN 2022 AND THEY CAME TO LEARN FROM US ABOUT HOSTING LARGE SPORTING EVENTS...

AND TO SEEK FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR LINKAGES.

AND NOW WITH YOUR VISIT, YOUR EXCELLENCY...

IT SHOWS THAT WE'RE ALWAYS WORKING TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE TIES BETWEEN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AND THE REST OF THE WORLD.

ALREADY, PORT MIAMI AND THE PORT OF CASABLANCA HAVE A SISTER SEAPORT AGREEMENT.

WHILE OUR REGION DID MORE THAN \$16 MILLION IN MERCHANDISE TRADE WITH MOROCCO FOR THE LAST YEAR ON RECORD, THERE'S NO REASON WE CAN'T DO A LOT MORE.

MUCH IN THE SAME WAY THAT MOROCCO HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN SEEN AS A TRADE AND CULTURE GATEWAY...

FOR SOME TIME NOW, MIAMI HAS BEEN KNOWN AS THE GATEWAY TO THE AMERICAS AND THE CARIBBEAN.

BUT INCREASINGLY, MIAMI IS ALSO BECOMING A GATEWAY TO AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, AND BEYOND.

OUR TRADE AND TOURISM NUMBERS SUPPORT OUR STATUS AS A GLOBAL CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE.

MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND PORT MIAMI RANK AMONG THE NATION'S BEST AND BUSIEST...

WITH MIA TOPPING 40 MILLION VISITORS AND PORT MIAMI CONTINUING AS A WORLD CRUISE AND CARGO LEADER.

FOR THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF LAST YEAR, THE VALUE OF TOTAL TRADE THROUGH THE COUNTY REACHED \$47 BILLION.

AND WE'RE EMERGING AS A CENTER FOR HEALTH CARE TOURISM, AND A LEADING HUB FOR TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES.

BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, AND WHAT MAKES MIAMI SO SPECIAL, IT'S THAT OUR PEOPLE ARE OPEN AND DIVERSE.

MIAMI WELCOMES PEOPLE FROM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

IN FACT, OVER 60% OF OUR POPULATION IS FOREIGN BORN.

WE GROW AND PROSPER FROM THIS DIVERSITY.

JUST LOOK AT GREENBERG TRAURIG.

IT CONSISTENTLY RANKS AMONG THE BEST AND LARGEST LAW FIRMS IN THE NATION, WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PRACTICE AREAS.

BUT THEY ALSO RANK TOP 3 IN THE NUMBER OF HISPANIC-AMERICAN, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, AND MINORITY ATTORNEYS.

AND ALSO LOOK TO THE WORK OF THE A.J.C.

FOR OVER 6 DECADES HERE IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY...

THEIR MISSION HAS BEEN TO CONNECT PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT FAITHS, NATIONALITIES, AND ETHNICITIES.

I'M FORTUNATE TO HAVE VISITED ISRAEL AS PART OF THE A.J.C.'S PROJECT INTERCHANGE.

IT'S A TRIP AND EXPERIENCE I'LL NEVER FORGET.

AND IT SHOWS THAT WHEN WE REACH OUT TO OTHERS...

WHEN WE TAKE THE TIME TO VISIT AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER...

WE CAN ACHIEVE GREATER COOPERATION, AND WORK TO EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE IN MIAMI...

AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH YOU TO BRING OUR COMMUNITIES CLOSER.

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY...

AND PLEASE ACCEPT THIS GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE
OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY.

THANK YOU.

