

**Remarks by Economic Chief Amy Schedlbauer  
at the At Khaizaran Agro-business Industry's Packing House Grand Opening  
May 2, 2007**

Sabah al-kheir. Good morning.

Mayor Eqab, Chairman Diab, Chairman Sinokrot, distinguished guests, on behalf of the U.S. Consul General Jake Walles, I'm pleased to be here today to congratulate the Khaizaran Agro-business Company on their herb farm, the inauguration of their partnership with USAID's Palestinian Agribusiness Partnership Activity, or "PAPA," and their export agreement with ARAVA.

It's wonderful to be here, on my first trip to the Tubas area, to see a new economic venture get off the ground. The U.S. government believes that the development of a prosperous Palestinian economy with private sector-led growth is critical for a viable Palestinian state to exist in peace and security with Israel.

In order to stabilize and invigorate the Palestinian private sector so it can serve as an engine of growth and job creation, we are pleased there are USAID programs, such as PAPA, to help the private sector. Given the significant role the agricultural sector plays in the Palestinian economy and the enormous potential for economic growth in this sector, especially in terms of agricultural exports, we are determined to help Palestinian agribusinesses achieve greater productivity and successfully access export opportunities.

We are keenly aware of the access and movement challenges facing the Palestinian private sector, particularly the agricultural sector. We are committed to working with both Palestinians and Israelis to implement the Agreement on Movement and Access, which Secretary of State Rice personally negotiated in November 2005. My colleagues and I at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, along with my colleagues in the USAID and US Security Coordination missions, as well as at our Embassy in Tel Aviv, are all working as a team to press for implementation of the Agreement and the removal of impediments to access and movement and non-tariff barriers to trade.

We look forward to the future success of our efforts, which would further increase the impact of enterprises such as the one we are celebrating today.

Once again, congratulations to all of the shareholders and employees of the Khaizaran Agro-business Company. We hope that yours is a very robust and prosperous partnership that inspires additional growth in the sector.

Thank you.