

## Office of the Premier

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

## PREMIER BROWN COMMENTS ON ROYAL VISIT 2009

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness, the Duke of Edinburgh left Bermuda today after a whirlwind tour of the Island. Their presence here was a fitting marker to help us celebrate our 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I acknowledge the long relationship between Bermuda and Britain and appreciate that Bermuda was graced with the Royal Visit this year.

As Head of State, Her Majesty was welcomed by thousands of Bermudians – particularly schoolchildren who had the opportunity to see Her Majesty and HRH, the Duke along the many routes they took as part of their visit.

Her Majesty told me how impressed she was at seeing the growth of Bermuda; the cranes in Hamilton are a very visible indicator of the confidence that businesspeople continue to show in our Island home.

While there have been stories about the strain in relations between Britain and Bermuda. Her Majesty was gracious, as always, in acknowledging the warm bonds of friendship that exist between Britain and Bermuda.

I was pleased that the quality of the relationship was further strengthened by the friendly briefing that occurred at breakfast on Tuesday between some of our business leaders and the UK Foreign Secretary, David Miliband.