

YOUR MAJESTY THE INDLOVUKAZI,
EMAKHOSIKATI,
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
PRIME MINISTER,
COUNCILLORS,
CHIEFS,
CHIEF JUSTICE,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
CABINET MINISTERS,
EXCELLENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF SENATE,
SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE EPHALAMENDE

INTRODUCTION

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU ALL TO THE OFFICIAL, OPENING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.

WE WISH TO THANK THE ALMIGHTY GOD AND OUR ANCESTORS FOR THEIR GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION AS WE ENTERED THE NEW YEAR 2014 UNITED, STRONG AND IN GOOD HEALTH.

WE THANK ALL OUR VISITORS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED FROM BEYOND OUR BORDERS TO BE WITH US HERE TODAY - THE NATION HIGHLY APPRECIATES YOUR PRESENCE.

2013 NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

WE ARE PLEASED THAT ALL THE ACTIVITIES WE CELEBRATED LAST YEAR PROCEEDED SMOOTHLY. THE REED DANCE AND INCWALA CEREMONY ALSO WITNESSED A GOOD TURNOUT BY ALL REGIMENTS, WHICH PLACES THE FUTURE OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SAFE HANDS.

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPLAUD THE VARIOUS FORMS OF SUPPORT FROM THE NATION, WITHOUT WHICH, NONE OF THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD HAVE

BEEN THE SUCCESS THAT THEY WERE.

NATIONAL ELECTIONS

WE ENTER THE NEW YEAR FULL OF NEW IDEAS ON HOW TO DEVELOP OUR COUNTRY. FIRST OF ALL, WE WISH TO THANK THE NATION FOR GOING OUT IN THEIR NUMBERS TO ELECT A NEW GOVERNMENT IN A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ELECTION.

THIS WAS A TRUE DEMONSTRATION OF MONARCHIAL DEMOCRACY WHERE PEOPLE GET TO VOTE FOR PEOPLE OF THEIR CHOICE TO SERVE THE NATION. IT IS TIME FOR OUR SCHOLARS AND CURRICULUM DESIGNERS TO INCORPORATE THIS PHILOSOPHY IN OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM.

THE TURNOUT FROM REGISTRATION TO THE SECONDARY ELECTIONS WAS IMPRESSIVE IN PRODUCING THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THAT WE HAVE HERE TODAY.

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT ALL THIS TOOK PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE BY INDIVIDUAL SWAZI'S WHO REMAINED TRUE TO OUR SLOGAN; **NGETE NGASALA SAKHA KWETFU**.

THIS SPIRIT NEEDS TO BE ENCOURAGED AS IT HAS YIELDED THE DESIRED FRUITS IN THE DIVERSE CALIBRE OF MPS WE NOW HAVE IN PARLIAMENT.

WE TRUST THAT SINCE WE HAVE NEW MPS AMONGST THE OLD ONES, THEY WILL BE WORKSHOPPED EXTENSIVELY ON PARLIAMENT PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THEIR MANDATE.

WELCOME PARLIAMENTARIANS

AS LEGISLATORS, YOU ARE DUTY BOUND TO HAVE CREATIVE IDEAS FOR DEVELOPMENT THAT SHOULD SEE THIS COUNTRY ATTAIN ITS FIRST WORLD STATUS BY THE YEAR 2022.

IT IS TIME TO MONITOR PROGRESS TOWARDS THIS VISION VERY CLOSELY.

WE NEED TO HAVE A SET OF INDICATORS THAT ARE THE KEY MEASURES OF THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE. WE CHARGE GOVERNMENT TO SET TARGETS AND DEVELOP A SWAZILAND DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2022 BY THE START OF THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR AND TO TRACK THIS PROGRESS.

WE EXPECT QUARTERLY REPORTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT AND THE NATION AS A MATTER OF TOP PRIORITY. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL IS, BY NO MEANS, AN EASY TASK. IT REQUIRES UTMOST DEDICATION ON THE JOB, AN ADOPTION OF THE RIGHT ATTITUDES AND STRATEGIC APPROACHES TO OUR WORK.

NATIONAL RESERVES

AS THE 10TH PARLIAMENT, YOU HAVE FOUND THAT YOUR PREDECESSORS LEFT US WITH A SURPLUS IN OUR NATIONAL RESERVES. THIS PRESENTS THE NEW PARLIAMENT WITH AN IMMEDIATE CHALLENGE OF RAISING THESE RESERVES TO DOUBLE, IF NOT TRIPLE THEIR CURRENT LEVELS.

YOU WILL NEED TO COME UP WITH NEW AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS OF IMPROVING OUR REVENUE BASE THROUGH DIVERSIFIED SOURCES OF INCOME.

YOU NEED TO BUILD ON THE MOMENTUM GENERATED BY THE LAST PARLIAMENT, FOCUSING YOUR EFFORTS ON HELPING THE COUNTRY RAISE SUFFICIENT REVENUE TO SATISFY ALL NATIONAL BUDGET REQUIREMENTS.

THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY ADOPTING A BUSINESS APPROACH TO NATIONAL ISSUES BECAUSE RUNNING A GOVERNMENT IS NO DIFFERENT TO RUNNING A BUSINESS.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

WE ARE PLEASED THAT ECONOMIC GROWTH HAS IMPROVED OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF SLUGGISH GROWTH IN THE PREVIOUS YEARS. THE ECONOMY GREW BY 2.8 PERCENT IN 2013, IMPROVING FROM AN ESTIMATED 1.9 PERCENT IN 2012.

THE GROWTH IS ATTRIBUTED TO THE GOOD PERFORMANCE OF THE MANUFACTURING, CONSTRUCTION, GOVERNMENT SERVICES, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SECTORS, TO MENTION BUT A FEW.

BETTER PROSPECTS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH ARE ENVISAGED IN THE NEAR FUTURE GIVEN THE RETURN OF INVESTOR AND CONSUMER CONFIDENCE, AS UNDERPINNED BY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LENDING INSTITUTIONS' CREDITS TO HOUSEHOLDS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.

THE MEDIUM TERM PROSPECTS WILL BENEFIT FROM THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION OF GROWTH ENHANCING AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS, BOTH IN THE PRODUCTIVE AND SOCIAL SECTORS.

JOB CREATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION

WE KNOW THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO CONSIDER ALL POSSIBLE OPTIONS OF CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE, WHETHER BIG OR SMALL, BECAUSE THE MORE BUSINESSES WE HAVE, THE BETTER. NEW IDEAS ARE NECESSARY TO ATTRACT BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT INTO THE COUNTRY.

OUR APPROACH SHOULD BE DIVERSIFIED AND TARGET INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURE, MANUFACTURING, MINING, CONSTRUCTION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MANY OTHER SECTORS THAT HAVE A HUGE POTENTIAL FOR LARGE SCALE INVESTMENT.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT AS WE HAVE WITNESSED THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S LEADING ECONOMIES.

THEREFORE, WE NEED TO IDENTIFY THE GROWTH POTENTIAL FOR EACH OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND CREATE A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE FOR OUR PRODUCTS WHILE SATISFYING THE DEVELOPMENT ASPIRATIONS OF OUR PEOPLE IN THE RURAL AREAS.

PARLIAMENT HAS A TASK OF COMING UP WITH SOLUTIONS THAT CAN TURN POVERTY INTO PROSPERITY THROUGH CAREFULLY DEVELOPED STRATEGIES THAT ADDRESS POVERTY ALLEVIATION EFFECTIVELY.

IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT WHEN DEALING WITH THESE ISSUES WE WILL COME ACROSS CHALLENGES, BUT ALL THAT WE WANT TO SEE AT THE END OF THE DAY, ARE TANGIBLE RESULTS THAT WILL BENEFIT EVERYONE.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING SHOULD ALWAYS FORM A KEY COMPONENT OF DEVELOPMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES PRIOR TO EMBARKING ON PROJECTS.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT REMAINS A KEY CATALYST TO THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF EVERY ECONOMY. WE THEREFORE ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT TO COMMENCE WORK ON THE CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT ARE IN THE PIPELINE.

THESE INCLUDE THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE AND NEW HOTEL, LOTHAIR - MATSAPHA WESTERN LINK RAILWAY LINE, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROADS, REHABILITATION AND UPGRADING OF EXISTING NETWORKS, AMONGST OTHER PROJECTS.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS ENCOURAGED TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH GOVERNMENT ON JOB CREATION INITIATIVES AND IDENTIFY PROJECTS THAT HAVE AN ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE NATION.

OUR PARASTATALS ARE REMINDED OF THEIR OBLIGATION TO BECOME SELF SUSTAINABLE, PROFITABLE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL COFFERS BY DECLARING DIVIDENDS TO GOVERNMENT ANNUALLY.

CONSTRUCTION OF FACTORY SHELLS

AS A WAY OF ENSURING AFFORDABLE FACTORY SPACE FOR INVESTORS, BOTH LOCAL AND FOREIGN, GOVERNMENT SHOULD URGENTLY EMBARK ON THE PROGRAMME OF BUILDING FACTORY SHELLS.

WE ALL KNOW THE POSITIVE SPIN-OFFS WHICH CAME WITH THIS PROGRAMME A FEW YEARS AGO. GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO IDENTIFY OTHER POTENTIAL AREAS TO CONSTRUCT THE FACTORY SHELLS SO THAT THEY ARE NOT CONCENTRATED IN ONE AREA.

THESE INITIATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO ACT AS A CATALYST FOR BUSINESS ACTIVITY AS WELL AS TO INCENTIVISE POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

OVER THE YEARS THE COUNTRY HAS INVESTED LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT IN OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE EMPOWERMENT FUNDS.

CONTINUED FUNDING OF THIS PROGRAMME IS THEREFORE, ESSENTIAL. THE CHALLENGE LIES IN MAXIMISING THE BENEFIT TO A LARGER POPULATION IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

FOR MANY YEARS, THE ALLOCATIONS HAVE REMAINED AT E80 MILLION. WITH THE IMPROVED FISCAL POSITION CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INCREASING THE ALLOCATION THIS FINANCIAL YEAR.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAMME CONTINUES TO LIE IN THE SETTING UP OF STRUCTURES THAT ARE ABLE TO EFFECTIVELY MONITOR HOW THE MONEY IS UTILISED.

IMPROVING REVENUE COLLECTION

AMONGST OTHER INITIATIVES, THE NATION WELCOMES THE MOVE BY GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT A VAT REFUND ARRANGEMENT SYSTEM.

THIS ARRANGEMENT IS EXPECTED TO IMPROVE CROSS BORDER TRADE, IMPORT DATA CAPTURE, ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO DECLARE THEIR IMPORTS, REDUCE QUEUES AND RESULT IN ENHANCED REVENUE COLLECTION FROM VAT AND SACU.

I CALL UPON THE NATION TO GIVE ITSELF TIME TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE NEW VAT ARRANGEMENT SYSTEM WORKS SO THAT THEY PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS REVENUE COLLECTION.

TOURISM AND WILDLIFE

TOURISM REMAINS A CRITICAL SECTOR IN REVENUE GENERATION FOR THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE USE OF OUR HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY, SCENERY AND GAME.

OUR WILDLIFE, HAS A DEEP CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE TO THE SWAZI NATION AND MORE RECENTLY HAS BECOME A PRIMARY DRIVER, TOGETHER WITH OUR UNIQUE CULTURE, IN OUR GROWING TOURISM INDUSTRY.

WE ALL, THEREFORE, HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SAFEGUARD THESE GOD – GIVEN NATIONAL ASSETS, WHICH WE SO NEARLY LOST, BUT HAVE NOW SUCCESSFULLY RESTORED.

FOOD SECURITY

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES TOWARDS OUR GOAL OF FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINS SEVERAL CHALLENGES IN KEEPING PACE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL FOOD SUPPLY.

WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS TO PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THE

COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY MAIZE WHICH IS OUR STAPLE FOOD. THERE SHOULD ALSO BE SUFFICIENT PRODUCTION IN VEGETABLE CROPS, PROVIDING EXCESS PRODUCE FOR EXPORT TO EARN FOREIGN REVENUE.

WHILE WE LAMENT THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER FACTORS WHICH HAVE CAUSED GREAT LOSS TO FARMERS, THIS EXPERIENCE SHOULD GIVE URGENT EMPHASIS TOWARDS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND STRATEGIES.

WE URGE GOVERNMENT TO START A PROGRAMME OF CONSTRUCTING AND REHABILITATING MAIZE AND VEGETABLE STORAGE FACILITIES IN ALL FOUR REGIONS SO THAT OUR FARMERS CAN SELL THEIR PRODUCE WITHOUT TRAVELLING LONG DISTANCES.

WE ALSO NEED TO RECONSIDER THE OPERATIONAL AND PRICING POLICIES OF THE COUNTRY SO THAT FARMERS ARE MOTIVATED TO CULTIVATE ALL YEAR ROUND TO SATISFY THE LOCAL AND EXPORT MARKET FOR GOOD RETURNS. FARMERS SHOULD BE FULLY ENGAGED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE IN THIS SECTOR.

THERE IS ALSO A NEED FOR GOVERNMENT TO RECONSIDER POLICIES IN FOOD PRODUCTION TO DETERMINE IF SUCH ARE STILL RELEVANT TO OUR FARMERS. THERE IS A NEED TO START PURCHASING PRODUCE FROM FARMERS UPON DELIVERY. WE MUST NOW BECOME AN EXPORTER, NOT AN IMPORTER OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

CHILDREN

OUR CHILDREN REMAIN A TOP PRIORITY FOR GOVERNMENT.

THIS HAS CULMINATED IN THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE RANKING OF THE KINGDOM FROM NUMBER 45 TO NUMBER 9 IN AFRICA.

THE NEW RANKING IS THE OUTCOME OF THE FORMULATION OF FRIENDLY AND APPROPRIATE CHILDREN POLICIES.

EDUCATION

ALL SWAZI CHILDREN DESERVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION. IT IS IN THIS VEIN THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD WORK WITH SCHOOLS AND PARENTS TO FORMULATE

THE BEST FUNDING MECHANISM WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF ELIMINATING THE TOP - UP FEES THAT DEPRIVE CHILDREN OF THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM IT.

WITH THE ON-GOING UPGRADING OF OUR COLLEGES INTO UNIVERSITY LEVEL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL, NO EFFORTS SHOULD BE SPARED IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF OUR GRADUANDS.

TO ACHIEVE THIS, GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO ADDRESS THE RISING NUMBER OF STUDENTS ENROLLING IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY DUE TO LACK OF SPACE LOCALLY.

WE MUST ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL FACILITIES AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION TO MATCH THE STANDARDS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

IT IS NOT ENOUGH, HOWEVER, TO JUST EDUCATE OUR CHILDREN TO BECOME JOB SEEKERS. WE MUST TRANSFORM OUR CHILDREN INTO ENTREPRENEURS.

OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM SHOULD PRODUCE INNOVATORS WHO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES AS WELL AS THEIR OWN.

YOUTH

WITH REGARDS THE YOUTH, MANY OF WHOM ARE SCHOOL LEAVERS, THEY NEED TO BE CATERED FOR. IF NOT EMPLOYED, FUNDS MUST BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HELP SUSTAIN THEM TO AVOID THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS THAT BECOME A BURDEN TO THE NATION.

THE YOUTH FUND PLAYS A VERY CRITICAL ROLE IN THIS REGARD. THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THIS FACILITY.

HEALTH

AS WE ARE ALL AWARE, THAT A HEALTHY NATION IS A MORE PRODUCTIVE ONE. EVERY ONE OF US NEEDS TO ADOPT HEALTHY LIVING PRACTICES.

GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES TO THE NATION. NEW FACILITIES SUCH AS THE OUTPATIENT SECTION OF THE LUBOMBO

HOSPITAL, WILL SOON BE READY TO SERVE THE NATION.

WE ALSO WELCOME WITH GLADNESS THE AFRICAN UNION AWARDS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MALARIA AND IN THE PROVISION OF CLEAN WATER.

THIS SHOULD ENCOURAGE US TO DOUBLE OUR EFFORTS IN PROVIDING AREAS THAT STILL LACK THESE BASIC SERVICES WITH ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER FACILITIES BY THE YEAR 2022.

WE ARE NOW LEFT WITH THE CHALLENGE OF OBTAINING AN AWARD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV AND AIDS SINCE WE HAVE IMPLEMENTED A NUMBER OF MITIGATION PROGRAMMES TO COMBAT THE DISEASE.

THE HEALTH SECTOR STILL NEEDS TO PROVIDE MORE LOCAL MEDICAL EXPERTISE TO REDUCE THE MOVEMENT OF OUR PATIENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR SPECIALISED TREATMENT.

HIV/AIDS

THE YEAR 2014 IS ONE TARGETED AT DRIVING SWAZILAND'S HIV RESPONSE CLOSER TO ACHIEVING THE VISION OF AN AIDS-FREE SWAZILAND.

THUS FAR, WE REMAIN ENCOURAGED THAT TREATMENT FOR THOSE LIVING WITH HIV HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY ROLLED OUT RESULTING IN DRASTIC REDUCTION OF AIDS-RELATED DEATHS DUE TO INCREASED UPTAKE AND ADHERENCE TO TREATMENT BY MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO NEED IT.

AS PREVIOUSLY SAID, OVER AND OVER AGAIN, HIV AND AIDS IS OUR COLLECTIVE CONCERN - "YINDZABA YETFU SONKHE." LET US ALL COMMIT TO CONSISTENTLY DO OUR PART TO ACHIEVE THE VISION OF AN AIDS FREE SWAZILAND.

ELDERLY SUPPORT

WE KNOW THAT THE ELDERLY PEOPLE HAVE CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS NATION IN DIFFERENT FORMS. THEREFORE, IT IS TIME FOR THEM TO REST AND ENJOY THE FRUITS OF THEIR HARD WORK. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON ALL OF US TO PROVIDE FOR THEM WITH GOOD LIVING FACILITIES UNTIL GOD DECIDES OTHERWISE.

REGARDLESS OF ALL THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES, THE NATION REMAINS

COMMITTED TO ADDRESSING THE WELFARE OF THE ELDERLY, IN PARTICULAR, THROUGH THE PROVISION OF GRANTS AND FREE BASIC HEALTH SERVICES.

THE ELDERLY REMAIN NUMBER ONE CITIZENS FOR OUR NATION AND PROVIDE A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION AND WISDOM TO GUIDE US THROUGH OUR DAILY LIVES.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI FULLY APPRECIATES SUPPORT FROM ALL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL PARTNERS, WHO HAVE COMMITTED THE MUCH NEEDED RESOURCES TO SUPPORT OUR NATIONAL EFFORTS IN PROVIDING A CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL EMASWATI TO LIVE A QUALITY LIFE.

WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING CLOSE BILATERAL TIES WITH FRIENDS OF THE KINGDOM.

THE COUNTRY ALSO COMMITS TO A CONTINUED ACTIVE ROLE IN CONTINENTAL AND GLOBAL INITIATIVES THAT SEEK TO FOSTER PEACE, ENHANCE INTRA-TRADE AND MEET ALL THE TARGETS UNDER THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE FINALISATION OF THE FREE TRADE AREA WHICH PROVIDES A GREATER AND MORE ATTRACTIVE MARKET FOR GOODS AND POTENTIAL INVESTORS.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

THE NATION WILL KNOW THAT FIVE YEARS FROM NOW WE SHALL BE CELEBRATING OUR GOLDEN JUBILEE. THIS MEANS THAT THE COUNTRY HAS TO SHOWCASE THE MILESTONES SINCE INDEPENDENCE WHEN SUCH TIME COMES.

THE 10TH PARLIAMENT HAS A HUGE TASK OF PRODUCING ACHIEVEMENTS THAT DEMONSTRATE HOW OUR KINGDOM HAS GROWN IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS.

IN THIS REGARD, LET EACH ONE OF US ADD BRICK AND MOTAR TO THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS OF OUR COUNTRY THAT WILL LEAVE A LEGACY TO BE CHERISHED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

THIS CAN BE ACHIEVED BY A NATION OF UPRIGHT CITIZENS, HARD WORKERS AND DEDICATED EMPLOYEES WHO PUT THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY FIRST, AT ALL

TIMES.

CONCLUSION

MASWATI, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI BELONGS TO ALL OF US. OUR NATIONAL PHILOSOPHY REMAINS THE PILLAR AND EPITOME OF OUR NATIONHOOD.

IT IS DISHEARTENING THOUGH, THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIVIDING THE NATION THROUGH FALSE INFORMATION AND NEGATIVE STATEMENTS ABOUT OUR KINGDOM.

SUCH INFORMATION CREATES A BAD IMAGE FOR THE COUNTRY. WE CAN ONLY PRAY THAT ONE DAY, THEY GET TO KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT US.

WE THEREFORE CALL UPON THE ENTIRE POPULACE TO LET SUCH PEOPLE KNOW THAT OUR KINGDOM WAS GIVEN TO EMASWATI BY GOD, HENCE, IT IS THE DUTY OF EVERY CITIZEN TO DEFEND IT UNTIL THE ALMIGHTY DECIDES OTHERWISE.

AS EMASWATI, WE ARE PREPARED TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

PARLIAMENTARIANS, THE COUNTDOWN TO 2022 HAS BEGUN. YOUR DUTY IS TO MAKE SURE WE GET THERE AS A UNITED AND PEACEFUL NATION; ONE THAT IS IN GOOD HEALTH, CORRUPTION FREE AND IS A HIGHLY PROSPEROUS NATION.

DECLARATION

I NOW WISH TO DECLARE THAT THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS OFFICIALLY OPENED.

I THANK YOU, MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.