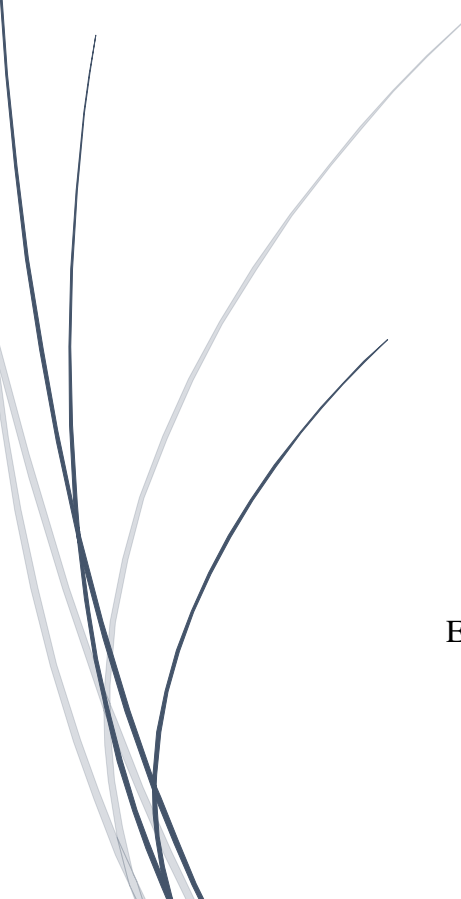
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**KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
DR ABSALOM THEMBA DLAMINI
MANAGING DIRECTOR, TIBIYO TAKA NGWANE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SOMHLOLO FESTIVAL OF PRAISE NATIONAL
PRAYER BREAKFAST 2018**

**ROYAL SWAZI SPA CONVENTION CENTRE,
EZULWINI**

Several thin, curved, light blue lines sweep upwards from the bottom left corner of the page.

EZULWINI, 21ST JULY, 2018

**HIS MAJESTY’S REPRESENTATIVE,
ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
CHAIRPERSON OF THE SOMHLOLO FESTIVAL OF
PRAISE AND THE ENTIRE LEADERSHIP,
LEADERS OF DIFFERENT CHURCH AND RELIGIOUS
ORGANISATIONS,
LEADERS FROM GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STATE
ORGANS,
BUSINESS LEADERS,
MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC FAMILY,
INVITED GUESTS,
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- GREETINGS IN THE MIGHTY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.
- I WISH TO BEGIN MY REMARKS BY EXPRESSING MY HUMBLE GRATITUDE TO THE LEADERSHIP AND ORGANISERS OF THIS EVENT FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT AND DISTINGUISHED AUDIENCE.
- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, THIS YEAR’S SOMHLOLO FESTIVAL OF PRAISE IS VERY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT FALLS ON THE YEAR OF THE COUNTRY’S 50TH

INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY AND HIS MAJESTY,
INGWENYAMA'S 50TH BIRTHDAY.

- BEFORE I SPEAK ON MY CHOSEN POINTS, I WISH TO TAKE A MOMENT AND CONGRATULATE INGWENYAMA AND THE NATION FOR THESE RESPECTIVE MILESTONES.
- HIS MAJESTY HAS BEEN AT THE HELM AT MANY CRITICAL POINTS IN THIS COUNTRY'S TIMELINE, AND WE THANK HIM FOR THE KIND OF LEADERSHIP HE HAS PROVIDED ALL THESE YEARS.
- WHEN A NATION GROWS, IT LOOKS TO ITS LEADERSHIP FOR DIRECTION, WISDOM AND VISION.
- AS OUR LEADER, HIS MAJESTY HAS FACED A MAMMOTH CHALLENGE TO STEER THIS NATION IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, SOMETIMES AGAINST DEEP CHALLENGES.
- THROUGH HIS WISDOM AND PASSION FOR HIS PEOPLE AND COUNTRY, HE HAS LED US TO THIS VERY IMPORTANT AND SIGNIFICANT POINT IN THE COUNTRY'S HISTORY.
- BAYETHE, WENA WAPHAKATHI. KHULA MLISA!
- I WISH TO CONVEY A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO HER MAJESTY, MHLEKAZI, WHO HAS ALSO PROVIDED KEY LEADERSHIP AND GUIDANCE TO THE NATION.
NKHOSI, MHLEKAZI!

2.0 BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, I HAVE BEEN INVITED TODAY TO REFLECT AND SHARE SOME INSIGHTS ON THE MILESTONE REACHED BY THIS COUNTRY IN ITS HISTORY OF SELF-RULE.
- I CONSIDER MYSELF BLESSED AND FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN TRUSTED BY HIS MAJESTY INGWENYAMA, HER MAJESTY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, THE ENTIRE NATION AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS BEYOND OUR BORDERS TO SERVE IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS IN BUSINESS, POLITICS, PEACE MISSIONS, AMONG OTHERS.
- THROUGH SERVING IN THESE POSITIONS, I HAVE BEEN FORTUNATE TO MAKE CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS, MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEARNED VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT OUR SOCIETY, HOW IT HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME AND ADJUSTED TO DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES AND PERIODS.
- I HAVE ALSO HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO COMPARE OUR SITUATION TO MANY ACROSS THE CONTINENT AND THE GLOBE.
- I AM EXCITED TO SHARE SOME INSIGHTS I HAVE GAINED AS A LEADER AND A HUMBLE SERVANT OF

THIS COUNTRY AND CONTINENT OVER THE YEARS,
WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE 50 YEARS OF
INDEPENDENCE.

- ONE CANNOT TALK ABOUT THIS TOPIC WITHOUT PAINTING THE PICTURE OF WHERE THE COUNTRY COMES FROM, WHAT IT HAS GONE THROUGH AND WHERE IT IS NOW.
- BUT IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST ALSO LOOK AHEAD, IN PARTICULAR THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.
- WE COULD SPEND THE WHOLE MORNING TALKING ABOUT THE JOURNEY OF THIS COUNTRY IN THE PAST 50 YEARS.
- IT HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES.
- A SIMPLISTIC NARRATIVE WILL TELL YOU THAT A LOT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WE HAVE TODAY, SUCH AS SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, FACTORIES, ROADS, BRIDGES AND OTHERS, DID NOT EXIST 50 YEARS AGO.
- AS A RESULT, MANY ASPECTS OF OUR LIVES SUCH AS HEALTH, EDUCATION, THE ECONOMY, WHICH DEPENDED ON SUCH INFRASTRUCTURE WERE UNDERDEVELOPED.
- TODAY WE SPEAK OF SOME SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC

ADVANCEMENT, ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH, ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY BY INDIGENEOUS EMASWATI, AND OTHERS.

- MANY COUNTRIES WERE FORTUNATE THAT THEIR FORMER COLONISERS LEFT A LOT OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPED AT THE TIME OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE.
- BUT OUR STORY IS DIFFERENT, BECAUSE WHAT WE HAVE WAS ACHIEVED THROUGH THE SWEAT, VISION AND COMMITMENT OF OUR OWN PEOPLE.
- FOR THAT, WE SHOULD BE PROUD AS LEADERS, AND AS THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY.
- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, WE CANNOT ONLY TALK ABOUT THE SUCCESSES OF THE PAST 50 YEARS. WE MUST ALSO REFLECT ON THE CHALLENGES SO THAT WE MAY IDENTIFY POSSIBLE AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT.
- THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS NOT BEEN EXEMPTED FROM A RANGE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC HURDLES.
- AT THE SOCIAL FRONT, WE KNOW THE DEEP LEVELS OF POVERTY AND HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT THAT ARE DRIVEN BY NEGATIVE, STAGNANT AND LOW ECONOMIC GROWTH, THE THREAT OF HIV AND AIDS,

CORRUPTION AND MISUSES OF STATE RESOURCES AND ASSETS.

- AT DIFFERENT PERIODS IN POST-INDEPENDENT HISTORY, OUR ECONOMY HAS STRUGGLED TO GROW AS A RESULT OF A COMBINATION OF GLOBAL, CONTINENTAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES.
- WE HAVE SEEN FEWER JOBS BEING CREATED AS THE ECONOMY TOOK STRAIN, WHICH CONTINUES TO DEEPEN POVERTY.
- THESE HAVE, AND CONTINUE TO THREATEN THE GAINS MADE IN THE PAST FIVE DECADES.

3.0 ROLE OF LEADERSHIP

- AS WE REFLECT ON THE COUNTRY'S STORY OF THE PAST 50 YEARS, WE MUST ASK OURSELVES HONEST QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR ROLE AND THE LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED AS LEADERS FROM DIFFERENT WALKS OF LIFE THROUGH THIS VERY LONG JOURNEY.
- IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE REFLECT ON LESSONS LEARNED AND HOW WE CAN TAKE THIS COUNTRY FORWARD, AND LEAVE A LEGACY FOR THOSE WHO WILL TAKE IT TO ANOTHER 50 YEARS.
- ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DRIVERS OF THIS PROGRESS IS LEADERSHIP. THOSE WHO HAVE LED US

TO THIS POINT HAVE PLAYED THEIR PART, NOW IT IS OUR TURN TO LEAD THIS NATION TO ANOTHER 50 YEARS.

- REMEMBER THAT LEADERSHIP IS A RELAY RACE.
- FOR INSTANCE, IT WAS THE WISE LEADERSHIP OF KING SOBHUZA II THAT INHERITED THE COUNTRY FROM THE BRITISH IN A PEACEFUL, NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND DELIVERED IT TO THE NATION.
- THROUGH HIS REIGN, HE ALSO ESTABLISHED A NUMBER OF BUSINESS AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES THAT FORMED THE ASSET BASE OF THE NATION, INCLUDING LAND, MINES AND OTHER SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMMES AND INSTITUTIONS.
- MANY OF THESE ARE STILL KEY IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION.
- HIS MAJESTY INGWENYAMA HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN HIS CALL FOR LEADERS WITH INTEGRITY, PATRIOTISM AND HONOUR, ON WHICH HE RELIES FOR IMPLENTING HIS VISION FOR HIS NATION.
- BUT WHAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP CAN TAKE THIS NATION FORWARD?

a) TRUST

- TRUST IS THE BASIS ON WHICH WE CONDUCT BUSINESS. WITHOUT TRUST, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR US AS LEADERS TO SUCCEED IN EXECUTING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS DELEGATED BY HIS MAJESTY, OUR BOARDS AND THE CONSTITUTION.
- AS A LEADER, YOUR WORD MUST BE YOUR BOND.
- PEACE AND STABILITY CANNOT BE ACHIEVED WITHOUT TRUST.
- AS THIS COUNTRY HEADS TO THE ELECTIONS, PEOPLE ARE LOOKING FOR LEADERS THEY CAN TRUST.
- COMPANIES ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR PEOPLE THEY CAN TRUST TO LEAD AND SERVE ON THEIR BOARDS.
- I WANT TO CHALLENGE ALL OF US TO ASK OURSELVES THIS QUESTION: AM I RELIABLE?

b) COMMUNICATION

- COMMUNICATION IS THE NERVOUS SYSTEM OF OUR ORGANISATIONS. WITHOUT COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE, OUR WORK IS FUTILE, AND WILL NOT SUCCEED.

- AS LEADERS, COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR STAKEHOLDERS ON AN EQUITABLE BASIS.
- COMMUNICATE YOUR VISION CLEARLY AND ALSO BE OPEN TO RECEIVE FEEDBACK FROM THOSE YOU LEAD AND DO BUSINESS WITH.

c) HUMILITY

- INGWENYAMA HAS SPOKEN ABOUT HUMILITY ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS.
- AS A LEADER, BE HUMBLE AND RESPECTFUL, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE WHO ARE YOUR SUBORDINATES.
- BE WATCHFUL OF THE POWER OF ARROGANCE AND PRIDE, FOR IT WILL ISOLATE YOU FROM PEOPLE AND SUBSEQUENTLY LEAD TO YOUR OWN DOWNFALL.
- HUMILITY MEANS THAT, AS A LEADER, YOU MUST BE ACCESSIBLE, AND THAT YOU MUST LISTEN AND TAKE ADVICE EVEN FROM THOSE WHO ARE BELOW YOU.
- HUMILITY AND RESPECT GO HAND IN HAND. RESPECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, YOUR WORK AND YOUR COMMUNITY.

d) SERVICE

- AS INDIVIDUALS SERVING IN GOVERNMENT, THE CHURCH AND BUSINESS, WE SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT OUR WORK IS ABOUT SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE.
- ALWAYS CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO GIVE IMPROVED AND BETTER SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE.
- OUR PEOPLE EXPECT QUALITY SERVICE FROM US AS DUTY BEARERS.
- OUR COUNTRY IS BATTLING WITH ISSUES OF POVERTY, AND OUR PEOPLE TRUST US AS LEADERS TO GIVE SERVICE THAT WILL SAVE THEM FROM POVERTY.
- WE ALL KNOW THAT POVERTY THREATENS THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE ALL THESE YEARS. GIVING SERVICE TO ELIMINATE POVERTY SHOULD BE OUR PRIMARY FOCUS.

e) PATIENCE AND TOLERANCE

- WE NEED TO REMEMBER ALWAYS THAT OUR WORK IS GOVERNED BY SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES, AND SOMETIMES HUMAN CONDUCT. THIS CHALLENGES US SOMETIMES TO EXERCISE TOLERANCE AND PATIENCE.

- THIS IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT WE SHOULD COMPROMISE OUR EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVICE AS ALLUDED ABOVE. BUT IT SAYS WE MUST UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT AND ENVIRONMENT WITHIN WHICH WE OPERATE.

f) PRAYER

- OUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN GUIDED BY PRAYER, EVEN AT DIFFICULT TIMES.
- AT THIS POINT, I WISH TO PAUSE AND EXPRESS OUR GREAT APPRECIATION TO THE CHURCH FOR THE ROLE IT HAS PLAYED IN ENSURING THAT EVEN AS WE WORK HARD TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY, WE REMAIN GROUNDED IN THE PRINCIPLES OF PEACE AND HUMANITY.
- **LET US CONTINUE TO MAKE PRAYER AND THE READING OF THE BIBLE OUR CORE BUSINESS.**
- WE RECOGNISE, AND ARE GRATEFUL TO THE CHURCH FOR PRAYERS, PARTNERSHIP AND COUNSEL THAT YOU OFFER HIS MAJESTY, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER LEADERS, WHO DEAL WITH THE COMPLEX ISSUES FACING THIS COUNTRY ON A DAILY BASIS.
- IT IS IMPORTANT TO HIGHLIGHT THIS BECAUSE WE CONTINUE TO SEE THAT MANY COUNTRIES AROUND US HAVE NOT ACHIEVED SUSTAINABLE

DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THEY LOST THEIR MORAL COMPASS TO KEEP PEACE AND CO-EXISTENCE.

- MANY HAVE SIDELINED THE CHURCH AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES.
- SWAZILAND HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN ITS RECOGNITION OF PEACE IN ITS HISTORICAL, ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE.
- OUR PEACE HAS NOT BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF ARMED FORCES, AS WE HAVE SEEN IN OTHER COUNTRIES.
- BUT WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH THE PEACE FROM THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN – THE GOD-GIVEN PEACE.
- WE THANK OUR LEADERS FOR HOLDING ON TO THE ADVICE OF KING SOMHLOLO, OF LEADING THIS NATION THROUGH PRAYER.
- I URGE YOU TO CONTINUE PRAYING FOR HIS MAJESTY, HER MAJESTY, THE GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS LEADERS AND ALL LEADERS TO CONTINUE PROTECTING THIS PEACE, WHICH HAS BEEN THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

4.0 GOING FORWARD

- AS WE LOOK TO ANOTHER 50 YEARS OF PEACE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE THROW THIS CHALLENGE AT EACH OTHER AS LEADERS.
- WE HAVE A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY TO GROW THIS COUNTRY'S ECONOMY. WE KNOW THAT CURRENTLY, OUR ECONOMY IS EXPERIENCING GROWTH CHALLENGES, WHICH HAS RESULTED IN ITS FAILURE TO CREATE THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF JOBS WE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.
- FOOD SECURITY IS ALSO A RESPONSIBILITY WE MUST TAKE UP AS LEADERS, BOTH IN GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR. LET US DEVELOP OUR AGRICULTURAL SECTOR TO ENSURE THAT AS A COUNTRY, WE PRODUCE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THE NATION AND FOR EXPORT.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- I WISH TO CLOSE BY THANKING THIS NATION FOR HOLDING ON TO ITS PEACE AND THE SPIRIT OF HUMANITY AND PATRIOTISM.
- WE KNOW THAT OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN MANY THREATS TO PEACE AND GROWTH ACROSS THE WORLD. BUT OUR PEOPLE HAVE NOT

SACRIFICED THEIR PEACE FOR ALL THAT WE HAVE
SEEN BEING PROMISED BY THOSE WHO HAVE
ULTERIOR MOTIVES.

- I WANT TO ALSO CAUTION THAT THERE IS STILL A
LOT OF WORK AHEAD, AND WE SHOULD NOT REST.
- LET US CONTINUOUSLY LOOK FOR NEW AND BETTER
IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE, BY
ALWAYS RENEWING OUR SPIRITS THROUGH PRAYER
AND SEEKING GOD’S WISDOM, LISTENING TO OUR
PEOPLE AND RE-COMMITTING OURSELVES TO THE
NATIONAL AGENDA.
- AS LEADERS, LET US ALWAYS STAY FIT PHYSICALLY
AND EMOTIONALLY, BECAUSE THE TASK AHEAD
DEMANDS THAT WE ARE BAGGAGE-FREE.
- I WISH TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION,
AND WISH YOU THE BEST IN YOUR ENGAGEMENTS
THIS MORNING AND BEYOND

GOD BLESS US ALL