

## **SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ESWATINI AND SINGAPORE**

The Kingdom of Eswatini has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Singapore.

Signed at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the MOU seeks to improve the economy which is in line with His Majesty's vision 2022. The Singaporean delegation was represented by Mr Andrew Lim(Consultant) and Ms Neo Poh Ling( Senior Director Africa) while Eswatini was represented by PS (AMB) Joel Nhleko. The two representatives work for the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE).

Principal Secretary in the Ministry (Ambassador) Joel Nhleko pointed out that the Singapore Cooperation is a government agency that coordinates expertise and experience which could be accessed by foreign Nationals in terms of the development of their own countries. PS mentioned that Singapore is a leading country in terms of efficiency and development and therefore such bilateral cooperation will improve the country's economy.

Ms Ling said they are happy to share their experiences with the Kingdom of Eswatini and Ministries in their development path. Lim labelled the signing of the MOU as a milestone and a good first step on the ladder which will happen mainly through exchanges of visits and knowledge. Areas of assistance will include; Digitisation, tightening of security measures to prevent the forgery of ID's and Passports, Business/Trade and enhancing the Tourism Sector to mention a few.

Furthermore, she pointed out that Eswatini is endowed with natural resources which Singapore does not have and in this regard there is a need for the Kingdom to package and effectively communicate such for the whole world to know.

On the other hand Mr Lim(SCE Coordinator) said as they are known for great tourist attraction notwithstanding their lack of natural resources, they will help the Ministry of Tourism to attract people to Eswatini, thereby improving the country's economy.

The representatives also had fruitful discussions with the Ministry of Home Affairs as they now plan to make their services available 24 hours a day.

Also present during the signing ceremony was Under Secretary International Cooperation Ms Jennifer Neves whose department deals with the signing of agreements with other countries and seeing to it that they are implementable.

Signed on Tuesday 02 April 2019