

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,
PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MANZINI REGION,
ARMY COMMANDER, USDF OFFICERS AND OTHER RANKS,
DEFENCE ATTACHES PRESENT HERE TODAY,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE LAPHA ENOKWANE.

INTRODUCTION

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO FIND TIME TO BLESS THE UMBUTFO SWAZILAND DEFENCE FORCE 40TH CELEBRATIONS HERE AT NOKWANE.

LET ME ALSO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION WHICH HAS BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR THE UMBUTFO SWAZILAND DEFENCE FORCE. WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO SEE MANY OF YOU COMING TO GRACE THIS FUNCTION.

WE ALSO WELCOME OUR VISITORS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED LONG DISTANCES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES TO BE WITH US HERE TODAY. WE ARE PLEASED THAT YOU COULD ALL FIND TIME TO JOIN US.

ARMY DAY

THE ARMY DAY IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT GIVES THE NATION THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERACT WITH THE ARMY PERSONNEL AND ALSO APPRECIATE THE DIFFERENT TASKS THE ARMY DOES.

MASOTJA, THE NATION HIGHLY APPRECIATES YOUR WORK OF MAKING SURE THAT THE COUNTRY REMAINS PEACEFUL AT ALL TIMES. YOU GIVE THEM COMFORT THAT THEY ARE LIVING IN A SAFE AND SECURED COUNTRY.

MANY PEOPLE ESPECIALLY OUR VISITORS HAVE ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND RATED HIGHLY OUR PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT. WE DO NOT LOSE SIGHT THAT YOUR WORK CALLS FOR DEDICATION TO NATIONAL DUTY. YOU ALSO HAVE TO PUT THE COUNTRY FIRST AND ABIDE BY YOUR OATH OF OFFICE ALL TIMES.

THE NATION CONGRATULATES YOU FOR THIS NOBLE DUTY YOU PROVIDE EVEN THOUGH YOU WORK UNDER EXTREME DANGEROUS AND CHALLENGING SITUATIONS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT IS A CATALYST TO ATTRACT FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT FOR THE COUNTRY. THE NATION ENCOURAGES YOU TO CONTINUE DOING YOUR WORK FAITHFULLY WITHOUT ANY FEAR OR FAVOUR.

WE URGE ALL MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCE TO BE VIGILANT AGAINST PERPETRATORS OF CRIME SINCE THIS PORTRAYS A BAD IMAGE FOR THE COUNTRY. CRIME IS AN ENEMY OF PEACE AND INVESTMENT.

MILITARY DRILLS AND DISPLAYS

THIS DAY MASOTJA HAS GIVEN US THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE YOUR MILITARY SKILLS. THE DRILLS YOU HAVE DISPLAYED TODAY ARE A CLEAR TESTIMONY THAT YOU ARE HIGHLY FOCUSED AND WELL TRAINED.

ATTENTIVENESS IS ONE OF THE ATTRIBUTES OF A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER.

THIS IS HELPFUL DURING COMBAT BECAUSE YOU HAVE TO ACT WHEN YOU HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DO SO AND ACT DECISIVELY ALL THE TIME.

ACKNOWLEDGE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE NATION IS PLEASED WITH THE SOCIAL SUPPORT THAT YOU PROVIDE TO THOSE THAT ARE IN NEED. WE ARE IMPRESSED THAT YOU HAVE PARTNERED WITH OUR DISASTER TASK TEAM IN PROVIDING SHELTER AND OTHER SOCIAL AMENITIES TO THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN AFFECTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS.

WE ALSO NOTE WITH PRIDE THAT YOU ALSO HAVE YOUR INTERNAL PROGRAMS OF REACHING OUT TO OUR COMMUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE GROUPS ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY AND ORPHANS.

I HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MILITARY HOSPITAL FACILITIES ARE PROVIDING HEALTH CARE TO MANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC. THIS GESTURE IS HIGHLY APPLAUDED AS HEALTH REMAINS OUR TOP PRIORITY IN THE KINGDOM.

FIGHTING CRIME ALONG BORDER LINE

IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITIES YOU WORK WITH ALONG THE BORDER LINES.

WE URGE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO COOPERATE WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE DEFENCE FORCE IN FIGHTING CRIME ALONG THE BORDER LINES.

THE OFFICERS GUARDING THE BORDER LINE PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN MAKING SURE THAT THERE IS NO CROSS BORDER CRIME. THEY PREVENT THE ILLEGAL MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND PEOPLE. SUCH GOODS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AND NEGATIVELY AFFECT OUR REVENUE COLLECTION. WE APPLAUD YOU MASOTJA FOR THIS GREAT MILESTONE.

WE ARE PLEASED TO LEARN THAT THIS HAS LED TO A HUGE REDUCTION OF CROSS BORDER CRIME.

BUILD GOOD IMAGE FOR THE ARMY

MASOTJA, THE WORK YOU ARE DOING REQUIRES AN UTMOST DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM AND DISCIPLINE. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR MISBEHAVING OFFICERS. SUCH ELEMENTS ARE UNDESIRABLE IN THE ARMY. IT IS CRITICAL TO KEEP THE IMAGE OF THE INSTITUTION AT THE HIGHEST ESTEEM.

ALL RANK AND FILE OF OUR MILITARY SHOULD AVOID FINDING THEMSELVES ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE LAW. FOR A SOLDIER TO BE PROFESSIONAL, YOU NEED TO BE GUIDED BY YOUR OATH OF OFFICE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN YOUR INTEGRITY AND HONESTY ALL TIMES.

AS A SOLDIER YOUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS TO PROTECT THE NATION AGAINST ALL THREATS THAT HAVE ELEMENTS OF DESTABILIZING OUR PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT.

WE CONDEMN IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THOSE WHO FAIL TO ABIDE BY THE MILITARY PROFESSIONAL ETHICS.

WE ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION WHERE THERE ARE PROBLEMS IN THE ORGANIZATION. BUT THIS SHOULD BE DONE WITH RESPECT.

SOLDIERS SHOULD FOLLOW THE COMMUNICATION STRUCTURES WHEN THERE ARE ISSUES OF CONCERN NOT TO USE OTHER FORUMS AS THIS IS AGAINST THEIR PROFESSIONAL TRADITION.

SOLDIERS WHO DECIDE TO USE UNETHICAL METHODS TO VOICE THEIR SITUATIONS ARE DESTROYING THE CO-FABRIC AND INTEGRITY OF THE DEFENCE FORCE.

WE ARE HAPPY THAT FOR THE PAST FORTY YEARS, OUR DEFENCE FORCE HAS REMAINED DISCIPLINED AND A DEDICATED FORCE.

LEARN FROM YOUR PEERS

TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR PROFESSION YOU NEED TO LEARN FROM THOSE THAT YOU FIND IN YOUR RESPECTIVE WORK STATIONS. EXPERIENCE REMAINS THE BEST TEACHER.

TAKE TIME TO UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE INTRICACIES OF YOUR PROFESSION. THEREFORE, THE YOUNG SOLDIER HAS A LOT TO LEARN FROM THE OLD SOLDIERS. A SOLDIER WHO OPENS HIS MIND TO LEARNING FROM HIS SUPERIORS WILL ALWAYS BE SUCCESSFUL IN EXECUTING HIS DUTIES.

COMBAT ASSIGNMENT

MASOTJA, THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE CONFRONTED BY WARS AND ELEMENTS OF SOCIAL INSTABILITY. THIS HAS CAUSED UNTOLD SUFFERING TO HUMANKIND.

WE NOTE THAT SOME PARTS OF OUR CONTINENT ARE ALSO FACING THE SAME PREDICAMENT. WE HAVE SPORADIC WARS WHICH HAVE FORCED PEOPLE TO BE REFUGEES IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND ILLEGAL REMOVAL OF LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS.

IN THIS REGARD, THE AU IS ENCOURAGED TO EXPEDITE THE OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE AFRICAN STANDBY FORCE.

WE THEREFORE ENCOURAGE OUR DEFENCE FORCE TO STAND READY TO UNDERTAKE SUCH ASSIGNMENTS WHEN THEY ARE CALLED UPON TO CONTRIBUTE TO AU PEACE KEEPING MISSIONS. THE AU PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL ARCHITECTURE IS CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH PEACE KEEPING IN THE CONTINENT.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS PROUD THOUGH, THAT IT IS ALREADY CONTRIBUTING IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND RUNNING OF PEACE KEEPING AFFAIRS IN AFRICA.

WE THEREFORE HOPE THAT WITH ALL THE SKILLS AND WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE YOU HAVE, WE CAN CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE CONTINENTAL ASSIGNMENT.

MASOTJA, AS YOU ARE AWARE YOUR EXPERTISE IS ALSO REQUIRED BY THE SADC STANDBY FORCE. YOU SHOULD BE READY TO PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PEACE KEEPING IN THE REGION AND THE ENTIRE CONTINENT.

AS OUR CONTINENT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR, WE SHOULD SHOW THE WORLD THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF PROTECTING OUR BELOVED CONTINENT FROM ILLS THAT BRINGS DIVISION IN OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

COOPERATION

MASOTJA, WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTINUE WORKING HARMONIOUSLY WITH YOUR SISTER SECURITY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

YOU ALWAYS WORKWELL IN MAKING SURE THAT, NATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE OBSERVED UNDER A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT. YOU HAVE FURTHER ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN ALL THE NATIONAL ACTIVITIES WITH PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM.

WE COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION WITH OTHER MILITARY FORCES IN THE SUB-REGION AND SADC REGION IN GENERAL THAT HAS ASSISTED IN REDUCING CRIME IN OUR COUNTRIES.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, LET ME URGE THE UMBUTFO SWAZILAND DEFENCE FORCE OFFICERS TO ADHERE TO THEIR WORK ETHICS.

REMEMBER THAT A SOLDIER IS A SOLDIER TWENTY FOR SEVEN. IN YOUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES SHOW THE PEOPLE THAT YOU ARE A PEACE MAKER.

OUTSIDE YOUR UNIFORM YOU REMAIN A SOLDIER. IT IS THEREFORE AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THAT, THERE IS NO TIME WHEN A SOLDIER IS A PRIVATE CITIZEN.

PLEASE REMAIN HEALTHY SOLDIERS, AVOID SITUATIONS THAT WILL COMPROMISE YOUR LIFE AND GETTING EPIDEMIC DISEASES THAT WILL AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO WORK FOR YOUR KING AND COUNTRY.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS OF THIS MAGNIFICENT EVENT. THE PERFORMANCES DISPLAYED BY THE OFFICERS WERE VERY GOOD.

WHAT REMAINS FOR ME IS TO WISH THE UMBUTFO SWAZILAND DEFENCE FORCE AN EVENTFUL YEAR.

THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.