

YOUR MAJESTY, THE INDLOVUKAZI,
EMAKHOSIKATI,
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
PRIME MINISTER,
COUNCILLORS,
CHIEFS,
CHIEF JUSTICE,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
MINISTERS,
MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MANZINI REGION,
THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL,
THE VICE CHANCELLOR,
MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE,
MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNISWA
FOUNDATION,
MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY,
PARENTS,
GRADUANDS,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE LAPHA E-UNIVERSITY EKWALUSENI.

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF E-SWATINI TO JOIN THIS AUGUST ASSEMBLY OF THE 35TH GRADUATION CEREMONY.

TODAY'S OCCASION IS NOT ONLY OF GREAT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR EDUCATION SECTOR, BUT IS PARTICULARLY SPECIAL AND SIGNIFICANT TO THE LIVES OF THE 1,400 GRADUANDS WE HAVE COME TO BLESS FOR HAVING RUN A GOOD RACE WHILE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS AUSPICIOUS EVENT AND WARMLY RECOGNISE THE PRESENCE OF ALL THOSE WHO HAS TRAVELLED FROM AFAR TO BE WITH US HERE TODAY.

WE CONGRATULATE ALL GRADUANDS FOR HAVING BEEN FOUND WORTHY OF THE QUALIFICATIONS THEY WILL BE RECEIVING TODAY.

YOU HAVE REACHED THIS LEVEL BECAUSE OF YOUR PATIENCE AND SACRIFICE OF PARENTS AND SPOUSES DURING THE PERIOD OF STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY.

EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE.

THIS IS WHY THE NATION HAS INVESTED A LOT OF RESOURCES IN ORDER FOR YOU TO ATTAIN YOUR ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THIS INVESTMENT WILL HELP YOU UNLOCK THE DOORS TO YOUR SUCCESS AS EMPLOYEES, ENTREPRENEURS, CORPORATE CAPTAINS, AND POLITICIANS. YOU SHOULD REMAIN GOOD AMBASSADORS FOR THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRY AT LARGE.

AS YOU VENTURE INTO THE NEXT CHAPTER OF YOUR LIVES, BE PREPARED TO LEARN FROM THOSE AHEAD OF YOU – BE IT IN YOUR RESPECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS OR THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH YOU BELONG OR SERVE.

YOUR GOLDEN RULE SHOULD BE TO MAKE USE OF THE EXPERIENCES OF OTHERS IN LIFE SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE KNOWLEDGE YOU NOW POSSES THROUGH YOUR VARIOUS QUALIFICATIONS.

AS YOU GRADUATE TODAY, YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT NOT ALL OF YOU WILL BE EMPLOYED SINCE THE COUNTRY IS FACED WITH EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES FOR OUR YOUTH.

THEREFORE, GRADUANDS SHOULD MAKE USE OF THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE ACQUIRED THROUGH THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP COURSE PROVIDED AT THE UNIVERSITY TO BECOME CREATORS OF JOBS AND NOT JOB SEEKERS.

YOU SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE VARIOUS NATIONAL FUNDS AND MAKE USE OF THE INNOVATION PARKS THE COUNTRY IS BUILDING TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS VENTURES AND CREATE JOBS. MANY COUNTRIES ESPECIALLY FROM ASIA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE REALIZED MASSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATION PARKS.

WE LOOK UPON OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE FACILITIES AND TURN THEM TO PRODUCTIVE ENTITIES FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF OUR KINGDOM.

WE ALSO WISH TO ENCOURAGE GRADUANDS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN ANIMAL SCIENCE, TO EMBARK ON LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION TO HELP THE COUNTRY MAXIMISE THE BEEF QUOTA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND OTHER BEEF MARKETS.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT UNISWA IN FOLLOWING GLOBAL TRENDS IN DELIVERING ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES LIKE THE ADOPTION OF THE CREDIT SYSTEM. WE WERE ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE RANKING OF THE UNIVERSITY HAS IMPROVED.

THE NATION ENCOURAGES THE UNIVERSITY TO CONTINUOUSLY POSITION ITSELF AND RESPOND TIMEOUSLY TO THE GENERATION OF INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY ANALYSIS AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE TO THE END-USERS.

THE ATTAINMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE WILL REQUIRE COMMITMENT FROM ALL THE PRODUCTIVE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY.

AS THE COST OF EDUCATION CONTINUES TO GROW, WE WISH TO ENCOURAGE ALL STRUCTURES INVOLVED IN THE PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR EDUCATION TO CONSIDER EFFECTIVE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

GOVERNMENT SHOULD CONSIDER SETTING UP AN EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE AGENCY THAT WOULD COLLECT SCHOLARSHIP REPAYMENTS FROM BENEFICIARIES AFTER GRADUATION.

AS A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO OUR DEVELOPMENT VISION, WE ENCOURAGE ALL THOSE GRADUATES WHO HAVE BENEFITTED FROM THE GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIP TO PAY BACK THE MONEY VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT WAITING FOR GOVERNMENT TO COME AND COLLECT IT.

BY SO DOING YOU WOULD NOT ONLY BE DOING A NOBLE NATIONAL DUTY, BUT MAKING A VALUABLE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS.

THE UNIVERSITY, THROUGH THE FOUNDATION, IS ALSO ENCOURAGED TO PUT MORE EFFORT IN INITIATING INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE REVENUE SOURCES. LET US GO OUT AND LEARN HOW PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD FINANCIALLY SUSTAIN THEMSELVES.

THE NATION IS PLEASED WITH THE GOOD WORK OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE STAFF OF THE UNISWA FOUNDATION IN FUNDRAISING FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

THE UNISWA STAFF DESERVE TO BE APPLAUDED FOR THEIR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE FINANCING OF THE UNIVERSITY.

WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL TO THE VARIOUS COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT CONTINUE TO MAKE DONATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY IN MONETARY TERMS AND IN KIND. IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT ALL THESE FUNDS ARE PUT TO GOOD USE.

LET US REMEMBER THAT AN EDUCATED NATION IS A PROSPEROUS ONE WHERE OFTEN PEACE RESIDES.

EDUCATION EMPOWERS AN INDIVIDUAL TO BECOME SELF SUSTAINABLE THUS CREATING A PRODUCTIVE FAMILY UNIT WHOSE CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LARGER SOCIETY BECOMES SIGNIFICANT.

EDUCATION, THEREFORE, FORMS THE STRONG BASE UPON WHICH THE ESSENTIAL PILLARS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ARE BUILT.

LET US CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THIS FOUNDATION IN ORDER TO FULLY REALISE THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR NATIONAL VISION 2022.

LET ME ONCE AGAIN CONGRATULATE OUR GRADUANDS FOR A JOB WELL DONE. YOU HAVE RUN A GOOD ACADEMIC RACE AND NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY.

LAST MONTH WE MET IN NEW YORK DURING THE UNITED NATIONS' 70TH ANNIVERSARY WHERE WE LOOKED AT THE ACHIEVEMENTS WE HAVE MADE IN THE ATTAINMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TO LAUNCH THE NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

I HOPE AS NEW GRADUANDS YOU WILL HELP THE COUNTRY IN IMPLEMENTING THESE GLOBAL INITIATIVES.

WE HAVE DONE WELL IN SOME TARGETS SUCH AS IN HEALTH, POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND EDUCATION.

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NATION IS TO MAKE SURE THAT ALL OUR YOUTH ARE PROVIDED WITH A PROPER LANDSCAPE SO THAT THEY ARE ALL NURTURED TO BECOME RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS OF TOMORROW.

WE WISH TO THANK EVERYONE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS OF THIS 35TH GRADUATION CEREMONY.

WE HAVE ALSO ENJOYED THE VARIOUS ENTERTAINMENT ITEMS THAT WERE RENDERED TODAY AND WE THANK YOU FOR THE GIFTS EXTENDED TO US.

I THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS ALL.