

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,
LUFABA GOLD MINE CHAIRMAN, MR DAVID KIRSHCHENBAUM,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

INTRODUCTION

I AM DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU ALL HERE AT PIGGS PEAK
HOTEL AND CASINO WHERE WE HAVE COME TO BLESS THE
OFFICIAL OPENING OF LUFABA GOLD MINE.

WE ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND A GOLDEN WELCOME TO OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS WHO HAVE TRAVELLED FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD TO BE WITH US HERE TODAY.

TO OUR PARTNER SDZ, WE WISH TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE MADE A WISE CHOICE IN PARTNERING WITH US AS EMASWATI.

THIS CEREMONY WILL SURELY GO DOWN IN THE ANNALS OF OUR HISTORY BECAUSE IT NOT ONLY USHERS IN MODERN MINING OF GOLD ON OUR LAND BUT LAUNCHES THE REQUIRED IMPETUS TOWARDS OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

TOURING OF THE MINE

THE HHOHHO REGION IS HOME TO MANY GOLD DISCOVERIES THAT HAVE BEEN MADE AND REPORTED OVER 100 YEARS AGO. THE GOLD DEPOSITS ARE REPORTED TO SPAN FROM ***E MOTSHANE UP TO HORO, NORTHERN HHOHHO.***

BEFORE COMING HERE WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TOUR THE GOLD MINE WHERE WE WERE BRIEFED AND SHOWN DIFFERENT STAGES OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE MINE.

WE WERE PLEASED THAT THE COMPANY HAS TAKEN A GIANT STEP TOWARDS PUTTING TOGETHER STRUCTURES TO ENHANCE THE MINING PROCESS.

THIS MINE WILL SURELY PUT OUR COUNTRY ON THE WORLD MAP AS ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE A GOLD MINE.

WE WILL BE CLASSIFIED WITH WELL-KNOWN COUNTRIES FOR PRODUCING GOLD AND WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE COMPLY WITH THE GLOBAL STANDARDS IN TERMS OF MINING AND SAFETY.

DIALOGUE SHOULD REMAIN AT THE APEX OF YOUR DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS. WHEN PEACE PREVAILS IN THE COMPANY THE MINE WILL BE KNOWN WORLDWIDE FOR ITS CONDUCTIVE ENVIRONMENT WHICH WILL LEAD TO HIGH OUTPUT. IT WILL ALSO ATTRACT OTHER INVESTORS TO THE MINING SECTOR IN THE KINGDOM.

LUFABA GOLD MINE

THE CULMINATION OF TODAY'S EVENT STARTED IN 2013 WITH THE GRANTING OF A PROSPECTING RIGHT TO EVALUATE THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY OF MINING GOLD IN THE PIGG'S PEAK, HHELEHHELE TO HORO REGION.

WE WERE PLEASED THAT, AT THE END OF THE PROSPECTING PROGRAMME IN SEPTEMBER, 2013, LUFABA MINE (PTY) LTD REPORTED THAT THEY HAD FOUND GOLD RESOURCES THAT WARRANTED MINING. THEY WERE THEN GRANTED A MINING LICENCE IN **SEPTEMBER 2014** TO MINE THE GOLD IN AN AREA COVERING **425 HECTARES**.

SHAREHOLDERS

LUFafa MINE (PTY) LIMITED IS COMPOSED OF THREE SHAREHOLDERS. THE SHAREHOLDERS ARE *INGWENYAMA* IN TRUST FOR THE SWAZI NATION, GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND AND SDZ MINE (PTY) LTD. THE LIFE OF THE MINE IS 25 YEARS WITH AN OPTION OF RENEWAL FOR A FURTHER 15 YEARS.

THE PRIMARY MANDATE OF THE MINE IS TO MINE, PROCESS, BENEFICIATE; ADD VALUE AND MARKET THE GOLD BULLION AND PRODUCTS MADE OUT OF GOLD OR CONTAINS TRACES OF GOLD.

THIS IS ALSO IN LINE WITH OUR ASPIRATIONS IN SADC AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WHERE OUR ECONOMIC BLOCK HAS AGREED THAT WE NEED TO ADD VALUE TO OUR MINERALS SINCE AFRICA IS ENDOWED WITH A DIVERSE NUMBER OF NATURAL RESOURCES YET WE REMAIN POOR.

THE NATION WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT LUFafa MINE HAS PROMISED TO EMPLOY OUR PEOPLE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF WORKING IN THE MINE, THUS CREATING JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE NATION.

THE MINE WILL UNDERTAKE A SKILLS ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES. WHERE NECESSARY, AN UPGRADING OF SKILLS AND EXPERTISE IN THE FORM OF IN-HOUSE TRAINING, MENTORSHIP, INTERNSHIP, BURSARIES OR APPRENTICESHIP WILL BE RECOMMENDED.

THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF THE TRAINING PROGRAMMES IS TO ENSURE THAT THE MINE IS EVENTUALLY RUN AND MANAGED BY EMASWATI AT ALL OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT LEVELS WITHIN FIVE YEARS FROM TODAY.

IN DOING SO, WE MUST SEE TO IT THAT WOMEN GET EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO OCCUPY THE SAME LEVEL OF POSITIONS AS THEIR MALE COUNTERPARTS.

WE WERE PLEASED TO BE INFORMED THAT AT PEAK PRODUCTION OF THE MINE, LABOUR COMPLEMENT WILL REACH BETWEEN 400 AND PROBABLY 500 INDIRECT JOB OPPORTUNITIES DEPENDING ON THE NUMBER OF SERVICES REQUIRED SUCH AS SECURITY, VENDORS, HIRING OF MACHINERY AND TRANSPORT, TO MENTION BUT A FEW.

MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES WILL AVAIL THEMSELVES IN THE UTILISATION OF THE DUMPS THAT CAN BE USED TO MOULD BUILDING BLOCKS.

WE URGE THOSE WHO MAKE A LIVING THROUGH GROWING ILLEGAL HERBS, TO VENTURE INTO THIS POSSIBILITY.

GOLD DEPOSITS

THE MINE IS REPORTED TO HAVE MORE THAN **2 MILLION TONNES OF GOLD ORE (SITOFU)** THAT CONTAINS THE GOLD WHILE THE ACTUAL GOLD THAT MAY BE RECOVERED IS ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 15,000 KILOGRAMS.

THE NATION WILL KNOW THAT THE MINE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN AN AREA WHERE THERE WERE OCCASIONAL REPORTS OF UNLAWFUL MINING OF THE GOLD FROM THE OLD UNDERGROUND PITS. SO WITH THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT WE URGE THE COMMUNITIES TO AVOID THIS UNLAWFUL BEHAVIOUR.

WE SHOULD NOW BECOME VIGILANT AGAINST THOSE OFFENDERS OF THE LAW. **"NAWE ULIPHOYISA"** SO REPORT TO AUTHORITIES ANYTHING THAT MIGHT NEGATIVELY AFFECT THE OPERATIONS OF THIS MINE. THE MINE IS HERE TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY AND THE ENTIRE NATION AS A WHOLE.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MINE

WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE MINE PLANS TO INTEGRATE WITH THE NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED PROJECTS THAT ARE MEANT TO IMPROVE THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

ONE SUCH PROJECT IS THE BUILDING OF A STATE OF THE ART HEALTH FACILITY THAT WILL BRING HEALTH SERVICES CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE.

WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL THAT THE MINE HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS. THE COMPANY WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PHYSICAL WELLBEING OF THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HIGH STANDARD SPORTS FIELD.

WHILE IT IS EXPECTED THAT SOME HOMES WILL HAVE TO BE RESETTLED TO MAKE WAY FOR THE MINING PROJECT, WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE COMPANY WILL SEE TO IT THAT THE AFFECTED FAMILIES ARE LEFT BETTER OFF. WE APPEAL TO THE COMMUNITY TO COOPERATE WITH THE WHOLE EXERCISE.

POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND DAM CONSTRUCTION

THE NATION WILL BE PLEASED TO HEAR THAT, THE MINE HAS ASSURED GOVERNMENT THAT IT WILL PARTICIPATE, FINANCIALLY AND MATERIALLY, IN THE PROVISION OF POTABLE WATER TO THE NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES.

IN ADDITION TO THIS, WE URGE THE MINE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT IN UTILISING THE EXISTING WATER RESOURCE FROM THE LOMATI RIVER TO BUILD A DAM AND DEVELOP AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

A DAM COULD ALSO YIELD HYDRO POWER TO COMPLEMENT OUR ELECTRICITY NEEDS PROVIDING YET ANOTHER ESSENTIAL RESOURCE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA AND BEYOND.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

SINCE ISSUES OF SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT IS HIGH ON OUR NATIONAL AGENDA AND THE WORLD AT LARGE, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MINE WILL ENSURE AGAINST ANYTHING THAT MAY COMPROMISE THE ENVIRONMENT DURING AND AFTER THE MINING ACTIVITIES.

IT HAS BEEN URGED TO ADHERE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, CONVENTIONS AND PROTOCOLS ON THE PROTECTION OF THE PRISTINE ENVIRONMENT.

IN PARTICULAR, THE MINE WILL IMPLEMENT REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES, KNOWN AS ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PLANS, CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL THEY REACH THE CLOSING PHASE OF THE MINE.

STORAGE FACILITY

WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE CENTRAL BANK OF SWAZILAND IS A STRATEGIC PARTNER ON THIS PROJECT AS IT HAS THE EXPERTISE AND LOGISTICS FOR THE SAFEKEEPING OF OUR PRECIOUS MINERALS.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE CENTRAL BANK WILL ALSO SERVE AS A TRADING CENTRE WHERE ALL GOLD DEALERS (BUYERS AND SELLERS) WILL CONDUCT THEIR BUSINESS.

THIS IS AN INNOVATION THAT WILL ALLOW OUR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS TO HAVE A STAKE IN THE GOLD TRADE AND SHARPEN THEIR BUSINESS SKILLS AND WE CHALLENGE THEM TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED TO THEM.

WE ALSO IMPORE THE CENTRAL BANK TO INVESTIGATE THE LUCRATIVE BUSINESS CONDUCTED BY MANY RESERVE BANKS WHERE GOLD IS BOUGHT FROM MINING COMPANIES BY THE CENTRAL BANK AND FORMS PART OF THE COUNTRY RESERVES. THIS WILL ASSIST THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO COMPLEMENT HER CURRENCY RESERVES WITH GOLD RESERVES.

BENEFITS OF MINING

INCREASED MINING ACTIVITY IN THE KINGDOM WILL LEAD TO DIVERSE SKILLS AMONG OTHER BENEFITS CUTTING ACROSS A VARIETY OF SECTORS. THE EDUCATION SECTOR AND ALL ITS SUBSIDIARIES WILL BE STRENGTHENED AS A NEW STREAM OF EDUCATION NEEDS ARISE WITHIN THE COUNTRY.

THIS WILL ENHANCE THE PRODUCTIVITY OF THE WORKFORCE AS NEW CHALLENGES EMERGE AND THE HUMAN RESOURCE IS STIMULATED TO FIND NEW SOLUTIONS TO EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES.

CONCLUSION

FINALLY, I CHALLENGE EMASWATI AND OUR ENTERPRISES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS MINE AND CONSIDER SETTING UP YOUR OWN MINES ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY.

AS YOU ARE ALL AWARE, OUR PREDECESSORS FOUGHT FOR THE INDEPENDENCE OF THIS COUNTRY AND OUR GENERATION SHOULD FIGHT FOR THE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND EMANCIPATION FROM THE DEPENDENCY SYNDROME OF OUR NATION AND ALSO REDUCE POVERTY AND ITS RELATED ILLS.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS TOWARDS THE SUCCESS OF THIS EVENT. THE ENTERTAINMENT HAS BEEN ENJOYABLE. WE ALSO APPRECIATE ALL THE GIFTS PRESENTED TO US.

DECLARATION

IT NOW GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DECLARE LUFafa GOLD MINE OFFICIALLY OPEN.

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