

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,
MTN GROUP CEO, FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA,
PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE HHOHHO REGION,
BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF MTN SWAZILAND,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

**SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE LAPHA KA MTN
EZULWINI.**

INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO GET THIS WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND BLESS THE NEW MTN HEADQUARTERS HERE AT EZULWINI.

WE WISH TO WELCOME YOU ALL AND WE ARE HAPPY THAT YOU COULD JOIN US TO WITNESS THIS MOMENTOUS OCCASION. WE ALSO WELCOME ALL OUR VISITORS FROM OUTSIDE THE BORDERS OF OUR COUNTRY.

TODAY MARKS A GREAT MILESTONE SINCE THIS COMPANY CAME TO ESTABLISH ITS BUSINESS IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.

WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CONSTRUCTION SINCE THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY.

WE ARE PLEASED THAT THE PROJECT HAS PROGRESSED WELL INTO THE STATE OF THE ART BUILDING WE SEE HERE TODAY, WHICH IS A JEWEL FOR MTN SWAZILAND.

THE COMPANY HAS INDEED GROWN FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO WHERE IT IS TODAY. THE NATION IS PROUD THAT YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO INVEST IN BOTH HUMAN CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE, WHICH IS A GOOD SIGN THAT YOU VALUE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NATION.

E150 MILLION WAS USED TO CONSTRUCT THE MTN HEADQUARTERS

MTN HAS MADE A HUGE INVESTMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THESE OFFICES, WHICH WILL CERTAINLY IMPROVE THE PROFILE OF EZULWINI AND THAT OF THE COUNTRY AT LARGE IN TERMS OF BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT.

AT BEST, SUCH A PROJECT TESTIFIES THAT MTN HAS SEEN VIABLE INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN THE KINGDOM. THIS SHOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER POTENTIAL INVESTORS TO COME TO SWAZILAND, WHICH IS A SAFE AND PEACEFUL COUNTRY.

WE CONGRATULATE THE CONTRACTOR **S AND B** FOR DOING GOOD WORK. WE ALSO CONGRATULATE THE DESIGNERS AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THE ENTIRE PROJECT FOR YOUR GOOD WORKMANSHIP.

CONSTRUCTION OF BASE STATIONS

ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MAIN OBJECTIVES IS TO ACCELERATE THE ELECTRIFICATION PROGRAMME IN THE RURAL AREAS. UNDER RURAL ELECTRIFICATION, WE HAVE SCHEMES THAT ARE FINANCED BY BOTH GOVERNMENT, THROUGH THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS, AND FRIENDS OF THE KINGDOM.

THE NATION IS PLEASED THAT MTN IS ALSO CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THIS NATIONAL OBJECTIVE.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRICITY POWERED BASE STATIONS IN THE RURAL AREAS HAS BENEFITTED MANY COMMUNITIES WITH ELECTRICITY.

LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO IMPORE COMMUNITIES AND COMMUNITY LEADERS TO PROTECT THE INVESTMENT MADE BY MTN IN THE RURAL AREAS.

THESE BASE STATIONS SHOULD NOT BE VANDALIZED OR STOLEN BECAUSE THEY CONNECT THE COMMUNITIES TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. WE STRONGLY CONDEMN THE THEFT OF COPPER WIRES AS IT IS A BAD AND DESTRUCTIVE PRACTICE.

SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION IS A VITAL VEHICLE FOR EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY HAS USHERED IN A NEW PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE COMMUNICATION SPHERE.

EVERY BUSINESS, BOTH IN THE MAINSTREAM AND INFORMAL SECTOR, RELIES HEAVILY ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

WHILST THERE ARE SEVERAL MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION, THE CELL PHONES REMAIN ONE OF THE MOST COMMON TOOLS USED.

IN THIS REGARD, THE ROLE OF MOBILE COMMUNICATION IN TRANSFORMING BUSINESSES AND SUBSEQUENTLY THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY, CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

THE CELL PHONE HAS BECOME PART AND PARCEL OF OUR LIVES. IT HAS CHANGED THE COMMUNICATION LANDSCAPE, NOT ONLY IN THE KINGDOM, BUT THE WORLD OVER.

MOBILE MONEY

THE NATION IS ALSO PLEASED TO HEAR THAT THE MOBILE MONEY PROJECT LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2011 IS ALSO GROWING VERY WELL AND CURRENTLY HAS CLOSE TO 200 000 SUBSCRIBERS.

IT IS ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT MOBILE MONEY ENSURES THAT THE UNBANKED PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL COMMUNITIES, ARE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FINANCIAL SECTOR.

THE DECENTRALISATION OF MOBILE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, SUCH AS MOBILE MONEY TO THE RURAL COMMUNITY, IS CRITICAL FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR ECONOMY.

IT ALSO ENSURES THAT FINANCIAL INCLUSION IS NOT RESTRICTED TO THE URBAN AREAS AS WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE OUR NATIONAL GOAL OF BECOMING A 1ST WORLD STATE.

EXCHANGE TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR MTN STAFF

WE WISH TO COMMEND MTN FOR THE STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WHICH ALLOWS OUR PEOPLE TO WORK AND DEVELOP APPROPRIATE SKILLS FROM OTHER MTN OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

THIS IS A BIG OPPORTUNITY FOR SWAZIS TO HARNESS WHAT WILL CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY IN THE ICT SECTOR.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

WE ARE EQUALLY HAPPY TO LEARN THAT THE MTN FOUNDATION, WHICH I OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON THE DAY OF THE SOD TURNING CEREMONY OF THE 26TH JUNE 2009, CONTINUES TO BENEFIT MANY OF OUR PEOPLE.

WE APPLAUD SOME OF THE PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE FOUNDATION SUCH AS CATARACT SURGERY, WHICH IS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SWAZI MTN.

I AM HAPPY TO LEARN THAT MANY SWAZIS WHO WERE BLIND HAVE NOW REGAINED THEIR SIGHT THROUGH THIS SIGHT RESTORATIVE SURGERY.

IT IS ALSO GRATIFYING TO LEARN THAT THE MAIN FOCUS OF THE MTN FOUNDATION, GOING FORWARD, WILL BE ON EDUCATION. THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT SINCE EDUCATION IS A KEY DRIVER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

WE CHALLENGE MTN TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES WHERE MOBILE PHONE TECHNOLOGY CAN BE USED TO DELIVER BETTER EDUCATION TO THE SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE NATION IS FOLLOWING WITH GREAT INTEREST THE PROGRESS ON THE SCHOOL'S CONNECTIVITY PROJECT EMBARKED UPON BY MTN SWAZILAND.

PROVIDING SCHOOLS WITH INTERNET ACCESS TO FACILITATE BETTER AND MORE EFFECTIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR STUDENT'S, WILL CERTAINLY ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION.

SPONSORSHIP OF ARTS AND SPORTS

MTN CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT PARTNER OF OUR SPORTS FRATERNITY. FOR TEN (10) YEARS NOW, THE COMPANY HAS BEEN DILIGENTLY SPONSORING FOOTBALL IN THE COUNTRY.

THE COMPANY IS ALSO SUPPORTING GOLF AND ARTS IN SWAZILAND.

SUCH SPONSORSHIPS ARE NOT ONLY TO PROVIDE FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT BUT TO ALSO ENSURE THAT PEOPLE ARE WELL OCCUPIED TO PREVENT THEM FROM ENGAGING IN CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND OTHER SOCIAL ILLS.

I THEREFORE CHALLENGE THE RECIPIENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS OF SUCH SPONSORSHIP TO MANAGE THEM WELL FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SPORTING FRATERNITY AS WELL AS THE SPONSOR.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, WE ARE ALL WELL AWARE THAT ICT HAS MADE THE WORLD A GLOBAL VILLAGE. IN A TWINKLE OF AN EYE YOU CAN COMMUNICATE WITH SOMEONE IN ASIA OR NORTH AMERICA.

THE BENEFITS OF ICT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CAN BE EVEN GREATER IF WE CRITICALLY APPLY OURSELVES AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MOBILE PHONE TECHNOLOGY.

THE MOBILE PHONE IS DOING MORE THAN REVOLUTIONIZING COMMUNICATION. IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO IMPROVE MANY ASPECTS OF LIFE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN COMMERCE, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND EDUCATION.

THIS IS A CHALLENGE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) AND GOVERNMENT TO COLLABORATIVELY EXPLORE ALL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPING OUR ECONOMY AND THE LIVELIHOODS OF OUR PEOPLE THROUGH MOBILE PHONE TECHNOLOGY.

OUR APPRECIATION GOES TO ALL THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS DAY A SUCCESS AS WELL AS TO ALL THE PERFORMERS.

DECLARATION

AT THIS JUNCTURE LET ME NOW TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DECLARE THIS MTN HEADQUARTERS HERE AT EZULWINI, OFFICIALLY OPENED.

THANK YOU MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL

1. UMHLANGA HOUSE

2. SIFUNTI HOUSE