

YOUR EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT HIFIKEPUNYE POHAMBAMBA OF
THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND CHAIR OF TROIKA,
YOUR MAJESTY THE INDLOVUKAZI,
EMAKHOSIKATI,
MADAM POHAMBAMBA,
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
PRIME MINISTER,
COUNCILLORS,
CHIEFS,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
CHIEF JUSTICE,
MINISTERS,
MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT,
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS,
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION FROM NAMIBIA
HONOURED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

**SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE NINE BEKUNENE
ENTSAMBAMA.**

INTRODUCTION

YOUR EXCELLENCY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU, THE FIRST LADY AND YOUR ENTIRE DELEGATION TO THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.

YOUR VISIT TO THE KINGDOM IS HISTORICAL AS IT SERVES TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAPPILY EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WE ARE HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE ACCEPTED OUR INVITATION TO NOT ONLY VISIT THE KINGDOM BUT TO LOOK INTO WAYS OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING OUR CORDIAL RELATIONS.

ISSUES OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND TRADE

IT IS OUR WISH, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THAT WHILE YOU ARE IN THE COUNTRY, WE USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE ON ISSUES OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AS MEMBERS OF REGIONAL BLOCS - SUCH AS SACU, SADC AND THE AFRICAN UNION AS WELL AS GLOBAL ORGANISATIONS - WHERE IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND AGREEMENTS AFFECTING OUR COUNTRIES ARE DELIBERATED UPON.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO SIT DOWN AND LOOK AT THESE TRADE AGREEMENTS AND HOW THEY AFFECT US AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE WE BENEFIT IMMENSELY FROM THEM.

TERMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS

UNFORTUNATELY, THE TIME FRAME FOR SOME OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS IS COMING TO AN END YET, WHEN LOOKING AT THE ACHIEVEMENTS WE HAVE GAINED, THE TERMINATION OF SUCH AGREEMENTS WILL BRING ABOUT UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCLUDING ESWATINI AND NAMIBIA.

THEREFORE, WE NEED TO BE CONTINUOUSLY ENGAGED AROUND THESE ISSUES FOR THE ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF THE REGION IN THE SHORT AND LONG TERM.

WE SHOULD FURTHER TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON INCREASING TRADE AMONGST OURSELVES WITHIN THE REGION AND THE AFRICAN CONTINENT.

VISIT TO NAMIBIA

DURING MY VISIT TO NAMIBIA, I WAS SHOWN A NUMBER OF PLACES OF INTEREST WHERE I FOUND YOUR COUNTRY PRODUCING COMMODITIES THAT WE REQUIRE IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI. THIS PRESENTED ITSELF AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS.

I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOUR VISIT HERE WILL HELP RENEW SUCH TRADE OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

FIRST WORLD STATUS

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS ENGAGED IN EFFORTS TO TRANSFORM THIS COUNTRY TO ACHIEVE FIRST WORLD STATUS.

THIS MEANS THAT AS SWAZI CITIZENS WE NEED TO INTENSIFY OUR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES TO ENABLE US TO ATTAIN OUR GOALS.

WHILE IN PURSUIT OF THIS NATIONAL OBJECTIVE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE IN A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT, WHICH SHOULD EXTEND INTO THE REGION AND THE REST OF THE CONTINENT. THE ABSENCE OF PEACE IN SEVERAL POCKETS OF OUR CONTINENT, PRESENTS US WITH A CHALLENGE TO RESOLVE THEM.

PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE CONTINENT

WE HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AND SURPRISED AT THE KIDNAPPING OF OVER 200 YOUNG GIRLS IN NIGERIA BY A MILITANT GROUP WHICH HAS TAKEN THEM INTO A FOREST. THIS IS AGAINST OUR AFRICAN VALUES AS WE BELIEVE CHILDREN SHOULD ALWAYS BE PROTECTED AND TREATED WITH TENDER CARE, LOVE AND RESPECT.

WE CONDEMN SUCH ACTS AND THE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INHUMANE CONDUCT MUST KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOW UP AGAINST THE ENTIRE WORLD.

WE CALL UPON THEM TO RELEASE THESE CHILDREN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, UNCONDITIONALLY AND WITHOUT EMOTIONAL OR PHYSICAL HARM.

HOME FRONT CHALLENGES

AS A COUNTRY WE HAVE WITNESSED TWO TRAGIC TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS THAT CLAIMED NUMEROUS LIVES ON THE ROADS AT VERY CLOSE INTERVALS.

THESE TRAGEDIES HAVE PRESENTED A VERY DISHEARTENING EPISODE IN THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE, AND HAS LEFT SCARS THAT WILL NOT BE EASY TO HEAL FOR MANY, MANY YEARS TO COME.

WE EXTEND OUR SUPPORT TO THE AFFECTED FAMILIES AND RELATIVES. WE ALSO PRAY FOR THE SPEEDY RECOVERY OF ALL THOSE WHO ARE STILL UNDERGOING TREATMENT IN HEALTH FACILITIES. WE WISH TO ASSURE OUR PEOPLE THAT THE COUNTRY WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE INJURED RECEIVE PROPER TREATMENT TO PREVENT ANY FURTHER LOSS OF LIFE.

AS A NATION, WE SHOULD COME TOGETHER AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER WHEN CONFRONTED BY NATIONAL DISASTERS. GOING FORWARD, WE NEED TO TAKE A VERY CLOSE LOOK INTO WHAT CAUSED THE TRAGEDY AND HOW IT COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

WHILE WE APPRECIATE THAT THERE IS A PROBE LOOKING INTO THE CAUSE OF THE ACCIDENT, WE NEED TO URGENTLY MINIMISE AND CLOSELY MONITOR THE FREQUENT MOVEMENT OF TRUCKS DOWN THE MALAGWANE HILL.

WE ARE AWARE OF PLANS TO CONSTRUCT A RAILWAY LINE FROM LOTHAIR TO SWAZILAND AND NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE NEED TO REHABILITATE THE RAILWAY LINE FROM NGWENYA TO MATSAPHA, SO THAT THE TRUCKS LOAD ONTO TRAINS AT NGWENYA WHICH WOULD TRANSPORT THE CARGO TO MATSAPHA AND OTHER DESTINATIONS. THIS WILL HELP TO AVOID THE TRUCKS HAVING TO UTILISE THE MALAGWANE HIGHWAY.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEE THIS HAPPEN WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT AS THIS WOULD HELP THE COUNTRY IMMENSELY IN AVOIDING ACCIDENTS OF THIS MAGNITUDE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

I TRUST THAT ALL THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF GOODS WILL ACTION THIS MATTER WITH THE URGENCY IT DESERVES.

ORDER OF THE LION AWARD

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE FROM THE DAYS OF THE STRUGGLE TO THIS CURRENT DAY.

YOU HAVE EXTENDED THESE EFFORTS INTO THE REGION AS YOU CURRENTLY HOLD THE POST OF CHAIRPERSON OF TROIKA WHICH IS INVOLVED IN RESOLVING CONFLICT IN HOT SPOTS WHERE TENSIONS ABOUND. WE ARE ALSO IMPRESSED WITH YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUR COUNTRY NAMIBIA, BUILDING ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUR PREDECESSOR.

YOUR COUNTRY CONTINUES TO ENJOY PEACE WITH POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT NAMIBIA HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP. YOU HAVE FOSTERED PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES. TROOPS FROM NAMIBIA HAVE ALSO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN PEACE KEEPING INITIATIVES.

IT IS A RESULT OF THIS DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP THAT THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI BESTOWED UPON YOU **"THE ORDER OF THE LION"**.

CONCLUSION

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE ONCE AGAIN THANK YOU FOR YOUR VISIT AND WE HAVE PREPARED A PROGRAMME FOR YOU THAT WE HOPE WILL GIVE YOU A BRIEF INSIGHT INTO SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.

ROYAL TOAST

FINALLY, MAY I NOW REQUEST EVERYONE TO CHARGE THEIR GLASSES AND PROPOSE A TOAST,

TO THE LONG AND HAPPY LIFE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT,

FOR THE CONTINUED PROSPERITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA,

AND ALSO FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT HAPPILY EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES THAT WE WISH TO SEE GROW FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

THE PRESIDENT!

THANK YOU. MAY GOD ALMIGHTY BLESS US ALL.