



**STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER,
SENATOR THEMBA N. MASUKU**

Wednesday 29th August 2012

I wish to address the issue of the teachers' strike of the past few months before the King and Ingwenyama of this great Kingdom called his subjects and citizens to the Sibaya (Swazi National Council).

First and foremost, His Majesty's Government wishes to reiterate that the pronouncements by Ingwenyama and King are beyond reproach. Government embraces this custom and is therefore collectively obligated by duty and bound by honour as a servant of the Crown to observe and implement each and every pronouncement.

Furthermore, as Government, we embrace a Royal Command as being completely inviolable and therefore above and beyond scrutiny. Given the foregoing, it is our fervent hope that the unfortunate and regrettable misinterpretation of

Government's actions should not detract from Governments' sincerity to expedite the rectifications at hand.

ISSUES

Government would like to affirm that His Majesty, the King at the Sibaya, pardoned teachers who were on strike. The King's command and pronouncement is to the effect that all teachers abandon the strike and that all dismissed teachers be re-instated with effect from the day of the pronouncement. The Ministry of Education and Training through the Teaching Service Commission will implement the Royal Command; which is to re-instate all teachers who received dismissal letters from the Teaching Service Commission.

To this effect and, following consultations with the relevant structures, His Majesty's Government has taken time to bring on board all concerned towards the full and accurate implementation of the Royal Command from Sibaya. It is worth pointing out that Cabinet representing the highest level of the executive arm of government is fully responsible for implementing all policies of this Kingdom and depends on several structures in the execution of its operations.

The command therefore was seen as an urgent matter that needed to be processed in compliance with these structures so that it is executed in its entirety in the highest professional manner.

At this point may I note that His Majesty's Government has repeatedly indicated that these are hard economic times and that this nation should hold together to overcome this challenge.

Therefore, Government reiterates her commitment even under these severe economic and financial hardships to return to the Negotiations Table as per His Majesty's Command at Sibaya. As this and other relevant actions proceed, His Majesty's Government reiterates and urges all concerned to respect this Command; and this includes teachers, parents, pupils, and Schools' governing bodies, who should collectively put the interest of the child ahead everything.

His Majesty's Government encourages the use of reconciliatory structures at all affected levels to ensure that healing, peace and harmony prevails in order for teaching and learning to take place.

We are all grateful as a nation to have a revered Monarch that listens to His people and continues to display unique leadership qualities. As Government and the nation at large, we do not take this pardon for granted, and we will not do so in the future. In this regard we pledge to conform and abide by the pronouncements.

As we turn a new page, may I wish this Great Nation an enjoyable and successful Reed Dance ceremony; as this is one of our unique cultural events that unite us as a nation.

THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!