

EMAKHOSIKATI,
 YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,
 PRIME MINISTER,
 COUNCILORS,
 CHIEFS,
 DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,
 CHIEF JUSTICE,
 CABINET MINISTERS,
 EXCELLENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
 PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT,
 REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MANZINI REGION,
 COMMISSIONER-GENERALS OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FROM
 NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES,
 COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND ALL RANKS
 OF THE SWAZILAND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES,
 DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

**NGIYANIVUSELA NONKHE KUMATSAPHA CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
 STAFF COLLEGE.**

INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT JOY TO BE WITH YOU HERE AT MATSAPHA CORRECTIONAL
 SERVICES STAFF COLLEGE TO SHARE THIS JOYOUS MOMENT WHERE THE
 SERVICE WILL BE SHOW-CASING ITS PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES.

TODAY'S OCCASION IS TWOFOLD AS BEFORE COMING TO MATSAPHA WE
 VISITED THE MALKERNS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL AND WERE TAKEN ON
 AGUIDED TOUR OF THAT BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL.

WE WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THIS OCCASION AND THE HUGE ATTENDANCE ATTEST'S TO THE FACT THAT THE NATION IS PLEASED WITH THE GOOD WORK OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

WE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF HEADS OF CORRECTIONS FROM THE REGION THAT HAVE COME TO JOIN US ON THIS IMPORTANT DAY.

YOUR PRESENCE IS A CLEAR TESTIMONY THAT YOU HAVE A STRONG BOND OF FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR CORRECTIONAL SERVICE HERE IN THE KINGDOM.

WE VALUE SUCH PARTNERSHIPS BECAUSE THEY ENABLE YOU TO SHARE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES AND CHALLENGES WHICH STRENGTHEN YOUR WORK.

I AM SURE THIS OCCASION WILL ALSO FOSTER DEEPER REGIONAL COOPERATION AMONG YOU AS CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS.

ENCOURAGE OFFICERS TO WORK HARD

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE ENTIRE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT AND STAFF FOR YOUR TIRELESS EFFORTS OF BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE MAINSTREAM OF OUR SOCIETY AND THOSE BEING REHABILITATED BY THIS INSTITUTION.

YOU DO YOUR WORK DILIGENTLY, SOMETIMES UNDER TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES, AND THIS IS HIGHLY APPRECIATED BY THE ENTIRE NATION. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

CORRECTIONS IS KEY

EVERY SOCIETY HAS CHALLENGES OF PEOPLE WHO BREAK THE LAW. SUCH INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT TO BE CONDEMNED FOREVER BUT THEY NEED TO BE HELPED AND INTEGRATED BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY.

THIS IS A HUGE CHALLENGE AND EXPECTATIONS FROM THE NATION ARE THAT YOU HAVE TO ACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE AS MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

WE ARE PLEASED THAT OUR CORRECTIONS SYSTEM EMBODIES REHABILITATION AMONGST OTHER THINGS AS INSTRUMENTS TO ENSURE A JUST, PEACEFUL AND SAFE SOCIETY.

WE APPRECIATE THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS THAT CONTINUE TO GIVE SUPPORT TO CORRECTIONS SUCH AS GOVERNMENT, CO-OPERATING PARTNERS AND THE SOCIETY AT LARGE.

THE NATION ALSO RECOGNIZES THE GOOD WORK DONE BY FORMER AND CURRENT CORRECTIONS OFFICERS WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY OVER THE YEARS TO MAKE THIS INSTITUTION WHAT IT IS TODAY.

NEW PARADIGM SHIFT IN THE ROLE OF CORRECTIONS SYSTEM

IT IS NOTED THAT THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM HAS BECOME A DIFFERENT PLACE. IT IS NOW A PLACE WHERE DEPRIVATION AND CRUELTY IS MINIMISED, WHERE OFFENDERS ARE HELD SECURELY BUT SEEN AS CITIZENS, ALLOWED TO EXPRESS THEIR ALTRUISM AND THEIR HUMANITY.

VICTIM-OFFENDER MEDIATION

THE OFFENDERS ARE DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR AND THEREFORE MUST LEARN THE FULL IMPACT OF WHAT THEY DID AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR MAKING AMENDS WITH THE PERSONS THEY VIOLATED.

MY MESSAGE AND APPEAL TO ALL OF US PRESENT HERE TODAY IS THAT, AS CITIZENS, FAMILIES, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS, LET US FIND IT IN OUR HEARTS TO FORGIVE AND EXTEND

AN OLIVE BRANCH TO THOSE WHO HAVE OFFENDED US IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS.

WHEN WE FORGIVE, WE REMOVE THE BURDEN OF ANGER AND HATRED AND WE FIND PEACE WITHIN OURSELVES.

CORRECTIONS OFFICERS ALWAYS UPHOLD YOUR OATH OF OFFICE

TO THE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS, WE IMPORE YOU TO UNDERTAKE TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES ENTRENCHED IN YOUR OATH OF SERVICE THROUGHOUT YOUR CAREERS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE VALUES AND ETHICS ENTRENCHED IN THE CORRECTIONS PROFESSION.

WE IMPORE YOU TO UPHOLD THE PRINCIPLES OF REHABILITATION IN OUR CORRECTIONS SYSTEM.

YOUR INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL EXPERIENCES CAN ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO A GREATER AWARENESS OF YOUR IMPORTANCE AS PART OF THE CORRECTIONS TEAM. THE ATTENDANT RESPONSIBILITIES THAT THIS ENTAILS FOR YOU AS INDIVIDUALS AND FOR YOU AS A MEMBER OF THAT CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TEAM, SHOULD NEVER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED.

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU FIX YOUR MINDS ON STRENGTHENING THE QUALITY OF REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION EXPERIENCES.

YOU WILL, ALSO, NECESSARILY NEED TO ASSIST IN EFFORTS AIMED AT IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE IN RELATION TO OFFENDER OUTCOMES AND EXPERIENCES IN THIS COUNTRY.

MALKERNS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

IT IS GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT THE MALKERNS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL WHICH STARTED AS A JUVENILE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL IS DEVOTED TO DEVELOPING JUVENILES INTO YOUNG ADULTS OF WISDOM WHO ARE COMMITTED TO PURSUING EXCELLENCE.

THE SCHOOL HAS MAINTAINED HER CHERISHED CULTURE OF TRUST AND RESPECT FOR THE INDIVIDUAL, CHARACTERISED BY A STRONG SENSE OF IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY.

EDUCATION IN PRISON

WE CONGRATULATE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR YOUNG OFFENDERS.

SINCE EDUCATION IS THE KEY FOR THE FUTURE, WE ARE HAPPY THAT WHILST THEY ARE HERE, THEY ARE PROVIDED WITH QUALITY EDUCATION.

IT PREPARES THEM TO MEET FUTURE CHALLENGES. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE PRISON EDUCATION SYSTEM HAS UNDERGONE WIDE-RANGING REFORMS.

WE HAVE HEARD IN RECENT TIMES THAT STUDENTS FROM THIS SCHOOL ARE DOING WELL IN BOTH THEIR ACADEMIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SPORTS, MUSIC AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE TEACHERS AND THE STUDENTS FOR THEIR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCES.

THESE EFFORTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' SUCCESS IN GROOMING A GENERATION OF ALL-ROUNDED AND CIVIC-MINDED INDIVIDUALS, MANY OF WHOM HAVE BECOME DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY GRADUATES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

MALKERNS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL IS ALWAYS IN THE FOREFRONT OF PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION IN PRISON AND TAKES THE LEAD IN TRYING NEW INITIATIVES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME UPHOLDING ITS FINE TRADITION.

WE TRUST THE NEW BUILDING WILL BE A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS BUILD THEIR CAPACITIES TOWARDS THEIR ASPIRATIONS WITH THE SUPPORT OF THEIR TEACHERS. SO TODAY MARKS ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN PRISON.

THIS IS A DAY OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE, INTERWOVEN WITH GOOD MEMORIES OF OLD DAYS.

I AM SURE THAT ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY WILL AGREE WITH ME THAT WE ARE LIVING IN A TIME OF RAPID CHANGE – CHANGE THAT IS OFTEN NOT PREDICTABLE AND NOT ALWAYS POSITIVE. THE BEST WAY TO MANAGE CHANGE IS TO ANTICIPATE AND PREPARE FOR IT.

I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE IS NO GREATER FORM OF PREPARATION FOR CHANGE THAN EDUCATION AND THIS IS GOING TO BE OUR ROADMAP TO 2022. I ALSO THINK THAT THERE IS NO BETTER INVESTMENT THAT WE CAN MAKE AS A NATION OTHER THAN IN EDUCATION OF THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE QUALITY.

CONCLUSION

IN CONCLUSION, AS CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS YOU ARE EVALUATED ON YOUR EFFORT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN PROVIDING TREATMENT AND SUPPORT TO THOSE PLACED IN YOUR CUSTODY AND CARE.

WE MUST ALL DEPART FROM THIS GATHERING REKINDLED WITH A NEW SENSE OF PURPOSE AND URGENCY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES WITH THE INTEGRITY, DILIGENCE AND DISTINCTION THEY DESERVE.

PROMOTIONS

THE NATION WILL RECALL THAT LAST YEAR I ANNOUNCED THE POSITION OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL. THIS HAS ALSO NECESSITATED ME TO

REVIEW THE STRUCTURE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND I AM HAPPY THAT TODAY I WILL GIVE THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES THREE NEW POSITIONS FOR DEPUTY COMMISSIONER GENERALS. THESE ARE THOKOZILE NXUMALO, MFANZILE MALINDZISA AND LUSUSHWANA NKAMBULE.

LOOKING FURTHER TO THE STRUCTURE I HAVE ALSO DEEMED IT FIT TO CREATE A POSITION FOR COMMISSIONER. THE NEW COMMISSIONER IS PHINDILE DLAMINI.

WE WISH THE NEW TEAM ALL THE BEST AND WE HOPE THEY WILL WORK VERY HARD IN THEIR NEW POSITIONS.

AS IT IS OUR CULTURE THAT WHEN A NEW CHILD IS BORN IN THE FAMILY BOGOGO NABOMKHULU ARE EXPECTED TO GIVE THE CHILD A NEW NAME. LIKEWISE I HAVE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE NEW NAME FOR SOME TIME NOW.

DECLARATION

IT IS NOW MY GREATEST PLEASURE TO OFFICIALLY DECLARE THAT MALKERNS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL IS OFFICIALLY OPENED. FROM TODAY ONWARDS THE SCHOOL WILL BE KNOWN AS VULEMASANGO SCHOOL.

AMNESTY FOR PRISONERS

AS WE HAVE SAID THAT, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES HAS A DUTY TO REHABILITATE OFFENDERS AND MAKE THEM REALIZE THEIR MISTAKES.

WE ARE PLEASED TO PARDON SERVING PRISONERS BY REDUCING THEIR SENTENCES.

THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL WILL MAKE THE CALCULATIONS FOR THE SERVING PRISONERS.

HOWEVER, TWO PRISONERS WHO WERE ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT WILL NOW SERVE LIFE SENTENCES.

WE APPLAUD ALL THOSE WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATIONS OF TODAY'S OCCASION.

WE HAVE ENJOYED THE DIFFERENT PERFORMANCES RENDERED HERE WHICH MADE THIS A JOYOUS AND MEMORABLE DAY.

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