

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,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF THE
SWAZILAND WATER SERVICES,
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE LAPHA EMASIBINI.

INTRODUCTION

IT IS A GREAT JOY AND PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE AT MASIBINI FOR THE OFFICIAL BLESSING OF THE NEW NHLANGANO WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

WE WELCOME YOU ALL TO THIS OCCASION WHICH SERVES AS YET ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENTAL AGENDA.

WE ARE IMPRESSED THAT THE SHISELWENI REGION HAS NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO SHOWCASE, WHILE PLAYING HOST TO OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES DURING THE COURSE OF THIS WEEK.

THE NATION WILL RECALL THAT IN MARCH 2012 WE COMMISSIONED ANOTHER WATER PROJECT IN SIMUNYE WHICH PUMPS 20 MILLION LITRES PER DAY, WHICH BROUGHT GREAT RELIEF TO THE SITEKI RESIDENTS AND OTHER SURROUNDING AREAS.

WE ARE PLEASED THAT THIS PROJECT HAS BROUGHT US VERY CLOSE TO, IF NOT SURPASSED, THE OBJECTIVES OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL 7.

THIS GOAL SEEKS TO REDUCE BY HALF, THE PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WITHOUT SUSTAINABLE ACCESS TO SAFE WATER AND BASIC SANITATION BY THE END OF THIS YEAR.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FORTHCOMING UN MEETING TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK, WHICH WILL DELIBERATE ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND POST 2015 AGENDA.

WATER CRITICAL TO DEVELOPMENT

WATER IS LIFE AND INCREASING ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY AND ACTION PROGRAMME.

MEANINGFUL, WELL-CO-ORDINATED AND PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF VITAL SERVICES SUCH AS THE ONE WE ARE HERE TO LAUNCH TODAY, DO NOT ONLY BENEFIT THE DOMESTIC RESIDENTS, BUT PROVIDE THE REQUISITE CONDUCIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTORS TO SET UP BUSINESSES.

RAW WATER AND STORAGE

WE ALL KNOW THAT A MAJOR CHALLENGE FACING THE COUNTRY IS SECURING AND SUSTAINING WATER SUPPLY.

IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT WATER IS ONE OF THE KEY CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE HAS CONTINUED TO AFFECT OUR COUNTRY WHICH HAS LED TO INTERMITTENT DROUGHT AND UNPREDICTABLE RAINFALLS THAT HAVE AFFECTED FARMING AND HARVESTING OF IRRIGATION AND POTABLE WATER.

THEREFORE, THE CONTINUED SUSTENANCE AND RELIABILITY OF WATER SUPPLY REQUIRES HUGE INVESTMENTS IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, ESPECIALLY STORAGE DAMS.

WE CHALLENGE GOVERNMENT TO URGENTLY INVEST IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER STORAGE DAMS TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS.

HARVESTING WATER DURING THE RAINY SEASONS IS CRITICAL, ESPECIALLY IN THE DROUGHT STRICKEN AREAS.

WE ARE AWARE THAT GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF **ETHEMBA** AND **NONDVO** DAMS WHICH WILL BE CRITICAL FOR THE SECURITY, RELIABILITY OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AND IRRIGATION.

WE DO HOPE THAT THE FRIENDS OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI WILL SUPPORT US TO REALISE THESE IMPORTANT VENTURES, AS THEY HAVE DONE WITH PREVIOUS PROJECTS OF THIS NATURE.

WE ARE ALSO FOLLOWING WITH KEEN INTEREST THE DEVELOPMENT OF LUSIP 2 PROJECT BECAUSE OF THE HANDSOME DIVIDENDS THAT WILL

COME WITH IT. EVEN THOUGH THIS WILL FOCUS ON IRRIGATION, THE PEOPLE WILL ALSO GET CLEAN DRINKING WATER FROM THIS PROJECT.

THE E450 MILLION PROJECT

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE WATER SUPPLY SCHEME WE ARE LAUNCHING TODAY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN PHASES, STARTING WITH DELIVERING 10 MILLION LITRES PER DAY.

THIS WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THE CURRENT NEED FOR NHLANGANO AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT THIS FACILITY, HAS ADOPTED WORLD CLASS TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN WATER TREATMENT AND SUPPLY.

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT WHEN IT WAS CONSTRUCTED, SOME COMPONENTS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ARE ALREADY INCORPORATED INTO THE SYSTEM.

THIS WILL ENABLE IT TO PUMP 20 MILLION LITRES PER DAY, WITH A POTENTIAL TO BENEFIT OVER 100, 000 PEOPLE.

THE PROJECT WILL BRING JOY AND SMILES TO A VARIETY OF SECTORS BECAUSE IT WILL PROVIDE WATER TO INDIVIDUAL HOUSEHOLDS AND TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

WE HAVE BEEN FURTHER ADVISED THAT WATER WILL BE SOURCED FROM MKHONDVO RIVER, TREATED AND PURIFIED AT THIS TREATMENT PLANT AND THEN PUMPED TO THE 10 MILLION LITRES PER DAY RESERVOIR AT MBUKWANE.

WHILE RESIDENTS OF EKUPHOLENI ARE ALREADY DRINKING THIS WATER, THOSE IN **NHLANGANO, MAHAMBA** AND THEIR SURROUNDING AREAS OF **DLOVUNGA, MASIBINI, MAZOMBIZWE, VUSWENI, MAHAMBA BORDER CORRIDOR** AND OTHER AREAS, SHOULD NOT DESPAIR AS THEY WILL SOON BE UTILISING WATER FROM THIS FACILITY.

THE COUNTRY'S OBJECTIVE IS TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ATTAIN 100% POTABLE DRINKING WATER COVERAGE FOR OUR POPULATION BY THE YEAR 2022.

EQUALLY IMPORTANT, IS THAT OUR NATIONAL GOAL IS TO HAVE WORLD CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE SUCH AS THIS ONE, THAT PROVIDES QUALITY WATER FOR THE NATION.

CONCLUSION

WE WISH TO APPLAUD THE GOOD WORK THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY THE BOARD, MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF SWSC, WORKING WITH GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS.

NOTABLE IN THIS PROJECT IS THAT IT HAS CAPACITY TO MEET OUR NATIONAL NEEDS FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS.

THIS IS LAUDABLE BECAUSE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT AS WE PLAN AND IMPLEMENT PROJECTS, WE SHOULD FORECAST AND ANTICIPATE FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

GOVERNMENT AND SWSC SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT EFFORTS TO REACH THE WATER AND SANITATION TARGETS NOT ONLY FOCUS ON CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES BUT ALSO ON SUSTAINABLE SERVICE DELIVERY.

THE SWSC SHOULD CONTINUE TO ENSURE THAT THIS RESOURCE IS PROVIDED IN AN EFFECTIVE, AFFORDABLE AND EFFICIENT MANNER.

WE ALSO THANK THE CONTRACTORS, INYATSI CONSTRUCTION, FOR BUILDING THIS FACILITY TO WHAT WE SEE TODAY.

WITH THESE WORDS, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THOSE WHO WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THAT TODAY'S EVENT IS A GREAT SUCCESS. WE HAVE ENJOYED ALL THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE DAY AND APPRECIATE THE GIFTS PRESENTED TO US.

IT IS NOW MY SINGULAR PLEASURE TO DECLARE THE NEW NHLANGANO
WATER SUPPLY SCHEME OFFICIALLY OPENED.

I THANK YOU - MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL