



PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE.

PRESIDENT OF THE IPU, DR. TULIA ACKSON,
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE IPU ASSEMBLY, MR.
MARTIN CHUNGONG, YOUR EXCELLENCY,
EXCELLENCIES PRESIDING OFFICERS AND
HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY,
DISTINGUISHED PANELISTS,

INTRODUCTION

WE ARE DEEPLY HONOURED TO ADDRESS THIS
ESTEEMED GATHERING OF THE 150TH IPU ASSEMBLY.

THEME

THE THEME "**PARLIAMENTARY ACTION FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE**" RESONATES DEEPLY
WITH THE CORE PURPOSE OF OUR DEMOCRATIC
INSTITUTIONS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF **THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)
AGENDA 2030, THE AFRICA UNION AGENDA 2063,
THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SENDAI FRAMEWORK
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030.**
ESWATINI COMMITS HERSELF TOGETHER WITH ALL
COUNTRIES TO JOINTLY IMPLEMENT SDGs AS

ESSENTIAL MEASURES TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND PROMOTE SHARED PROSPERITY. ISSUES OF POVERTY, WELFARE AND JUSTICE ARE GLOBAL CHALLENGES DEMANDING A UNIFIED, COLLECTIVE RESPONSE.

MAINSTREAMING.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI SOON AFTER THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS OF 2023, ACTED PROMPTLY BY PRODUCING A STRATEGIC ROADMAP FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RE-INTRODUCED A NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITH SET PRIORITIES. THIS BIRTHED THE STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH WHICH HAS MAINSTREAMED **THE SADC AGENDA 2025, AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 AND UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA 2030.**

DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

ESWATINI'S STRATEGIC FOCUS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS STRUCTURED AROUND THE CRITICAL DIMENSIONS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH, SOCIAL EQUITY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, AND PEACE, SECURITY, AND STABILITY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES WERE DONE THROUGH LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENTS TO STRENGTHEN TAX COLLECTION, STRENGTHENING OF ESWATINI'S REVENUE AUTHORITY, PUBLIC INVESTMENT INITIATIVES, THE MICRO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMME) SECTOR, CREATION OF ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO FUNCTION, HARNESSING EMPLOYMENT CREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND STRENGTHENING OF THE MINING SECTOR.

SOCIAL SECTOR.

THE COUNTRY IS PROVIDING FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION TO ADVANCE ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY. GOVERNMENT IS ALSO PROVIDING FREE EDUCATION AT HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL FOR THE ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN. VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN (OVCs), THE ELDERLY, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, WOMEN AND THE YOUTH.

PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN THE MAJOR PROPONENT TO ADVOCATE FOR THE ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FOR OVCs, THE ELDERLY, AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND PROGRAMMES TO EMPOWER WOMEN AND GIRLS, SUCH AS THE WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME, YOUTH ENTERPRISE FUND AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI ACT, NO.001 OF 2005 PROVIDES FOR A

QUOTA (30%) OF WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN THE PARLIAMENT OF ESWATINI. TO GIVE EFFECT TO THE ABOVE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION, OUR PARLIAMENT HAS RECENTLY ENACTED THE ELECTION OF WOMEN MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ACT OF 2018, AIMED AT INCREASING REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS IN PARLIAMENT. THIS LEGISLATION HAS FACILITATED THE INCREASE IN WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT FROM 18% IN 2013 TO 29% IN 2023. OUR PARLIAMENT HAS A WOMEN PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS, WHICH HAS ITS 5 YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS PRIORITIZED ISSUES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND HAS ESTABLISHED A COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE TO FAST TRACK INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE SUCH AS RENEWABLE ENERGY. CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INITIATIVES ARE A PRIORITY DUE TO THEIR IMPACT ON KEY SECTORS LIKE AGRICULTURE, TOURISM, AND THE ENVIRONMENT. OUR PARLIAMENT HAS APPROVED BY LEGISLATIVE INSTRUMENT, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL FUND FOR DEGRADATION AND REHABILITATION.

PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY.

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS A PEACEFUL COUNTRY. THE COUNTRY DOES NOT TOLERATE CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, HENCE THE CONSENTED EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENT AND PARLIAMENT TO ESTABLISH LEGISLATION TO CAPACITATE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION TO ERADICATE CORRUPTION. THIS IS IN LINE WITH **AFRICA UNION AGENDA 2063**, WHICH ENJOINS GOVERNMENTS, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO WORK TOGETHER TO IMPLEMENT LASTING SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE VIOLENCE, DELIVER JUSTICE, COMBAT CORRUPTION AND ENSURE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION AT ALL TIMES.

PROGRAMMES ENSURING PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS ENACTED VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORKS FOR THE REALIZATION OF **THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063 GOAL**. THESE INCLUDE THE ENACTMENT OF **THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SMUGGLING ACT NO.9 OF 2009, THE SEXUAL OFFENCES AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT NO. 15 OF 2018, AND THE OPERATIONAL REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT IN 2021, THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION AND WELFARE ACT NO. 6 OF 2012.**

ESWATINI HAS PUT IN PLACE SEVERAL PIECES OF LEGISLATION TO HOLD LEADERS AND PUBLIC OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE. THESE INCLUDE;

- THE **PROCUREMENT ACT NO. 7 OF 2011** WHICH DEALS WITH STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS INVOLVED IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT.
- THE **PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT ACT NO. 10 OF 2017** WHICH PROVIDES FOR CASES OF FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT.
- THE **PUBLIC SERVICE ACT NO. 5 OF 2018** WHICH PROMOTES INTEGRITY, HONESTY AND RESPONSIBILITY AMONG ITS PUBLIC OFFICIALS.
- THE **PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT NO. 3 2006** WHICH CRIMINALIZES AND PUNISHES CORRUPT PRACTICES SUCH AS ACTS OF BRIBERY, MONEY LAUNDERING, CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND CHEATING OF THE PUBLIC REVENUE.

OTHER LEGISLATIONS THAT MAY APPLY IN HOLDING LEADERS OR PUBLIC OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE ARE AS FOLLOWS;

- **MONEY-LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM (PREVENTION) ACT NO. 6 OF 2011**
- **MONEY-LAUNDERING FINANCING OF TERRORISM (PREVENTION) (AMENDMENT) ACT NO. 5 OF 2016**

- **CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AND EVIDENCE ACT, NO.67 OF 1938**
- **WITNESS PROTECTION ACT NO.10 OF 2018**
- **PREVENTION OF ORGANIZED CRIME ACT NO.11 OF 2018**
- **COMPUTER CRIME AND CYBERCRIME ACT NO.6 OF 2022.**

THE COUNTRY HAS PROMULGATED A NUMBER OF LEGISLATION THAT SUPPORTS PEACE, SECURITY AND STABILITY SUCH AS;

- **THE PUBLIC ORDER ACT NO. 12 OF 2017** WHICH GIVES EFFECT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY, ASSOCIATION AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION EMBODIED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI AT THE SAME TIME IT PROMOTES AND PROTECTS PUBLIC ORDER, PUBLIC HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC MORALS. THE ACT FURTHER CONTAINS A CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE ON GATHERING NOTICE 2017 WHICH REGULATES THE CONDUCT OF PEOPLE IN A GATHERING TO ENSURE PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY FOR ALL.
- ENACTMENT OF **CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ACT NO. 13 OF 2017 AND THE POLICE SERVICE ACT NO. 22 OF 2018** BOTH OF WHICH SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT THE RIGHTS

OF OFFENDERS ARE UPHELD IN A HUMANE MANNER.

CONCLUSION.

ESWATINI HAS COMMITMENT TO IMPEMENT **THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGENDA 2030, THE AFRICAN UNION AGENDA 2063** AND RELATED INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS, TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND PROMOTE SHARED PROSPERITY.

FOR THIS JOURNEY TO BE SUCCESSFUL, COLLECTIVE EFFORTS AT EVERY LEVEL, LOCAL, NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL ARE ESSENTIAL.

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