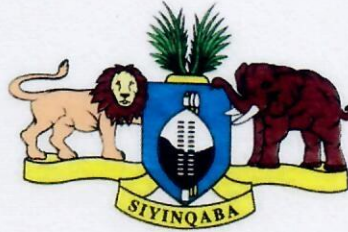


KINGDOM OF ESWATINI



SPEECH

BY

**HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III, DURING THE
DOUBLE CELEBRATION: RUBY JUBILEE 40
YEARS OF REIGN AS INGWENYAMA AND
KING OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, AND
58TH BIRTHDAY, HELD AT SOMHLOLO
NATIONAL STADIUM.**

24th APRIL, 2026

KING'S OFFICE

YOUR MAJESTY THE INDLOVUKAZI,
YOUR MAJESTIES,
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT,
EMAKHOSIKATI,
YOUR MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO,
FIRST LADIES PRESENT,
UMNDLUNKHULU FROM THE ZULU NATION,
FORMER PRESIDENTS AND ELEDERS,
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,

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE HHOHHO REGION,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

**SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE LAPHA
KASOMHLOLO - KALOBAMBA.**

INTRODUCTION

IT IS WITH PROFOUND HUMILITY AND APPRECIATION
THAT I STAND BEFORE YOU ON THIS HISTORIC
OCCASION, MARKING 40 YEARS AS INGWENYAMA AND
KING OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, AND MY 58TH
BIRTHDAY.

TODAY IS A SACRED MOMENT OF NATIONAL THANKSGIVING AND REFLECTION, A TIME TO HONOUR THE DIVINE GRACE OF GOD, THE ANCESTRAL GUIDANCE AND THE LOYALTY OF ALL EMASWATI WHO HAVE SUSTAINED OUR KINGDOM THROUGH THESE FOUR REMARKABLE DECADES.

OUR JOURNEY HAS BEEN ANCHORED IN OUR UNBROKEN ROYAL HERITAGE AND STRENGTHENED BY PRAYERS AND THE PREVAILING PEACE THAT YOU, THE PEOPLE OF ESWATINI, HAVE SO GRACIOUSLY BESTOWED UPON THIS KINGDOM.

TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, DISTINGUISHED DIPLOMATS AND ALL OUR HONOURED GUESTS FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE, THANK YOU FOR GRACING US WITH YOUR PRESENCE.

BY SETTING ASIDE YOUR PRESSING NATIONAL DUTIES TO JOIN US, YOU AFFIRM THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP, SOLIDARITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT THAT ESWATINI SHARES WITH YOUR NATIONS.

DURING YOUR SHORT STAY WITH US, MAY YOU FEEL THE RICHNESS OF OUR CULTURE, THE WARMTH OF OUR PEOPLE, AND THE SPIRIT OF TOGETHERNESS THAT DEFINES US.

WE ALSO EXTEND A WELCOME TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED US THROUGH VARIOUS MEDIA PLATFORMS LOCALLY AND BEYOND OUR BORDERS.

THE RUBY JUBILEE

AS WE CELEBRATE THIS RUBY JUBILEE, WE ARE REMINDED THAT LEADERSHIP IS NOT MEASURED BY TIME ALONE, BUT BY THE LEGACY WE BUILD AND THE FUTURE WE PREPARE.

WE ARE COGNISANT THAT OUR JOURNEY IS NOT COMPLETE. I ALWAYS HEAR THE ULULATING VOICES; SEE THE SMILES AND THE JOY THAT FILLED THIS VERY STADIUM 40 YEARS AGO.

WE WISH TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK OUR PREDECESSORS WHO FOUGHT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF OUR NATION. WE SALUTE THEM FOR THEIR ASTUTE LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

SINCE THE CORONATION ON 25 APRIL 1986, ONE RECALLS THE SOLEMN PROMISE I MADE TO EVERY LISWATI: TO FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MY PREDECESSORS, TO SERVE, TO PROTECT, AND TO UPHOLD THE RICH TRADITIONS AND VALUES THAT DEFINE OUR KINGDOM.

TODAY AS EMASWATI, WE NOTE AND APPRECIATE THE ROLE PLAYED BY **KING SOBHUZA II** WHOSE LEGACY SHAPED MODERN ESWATINI. HIS REIGN WAS WOVEN WITH ACHIEVEMENTS AND CULTURAL PROTECTION THAT DEFINE THE HEART OF ESWATINI.

OUR FOREFATHERS LAID A SOLID FOUNDATION OF RESPECT, IDENTITY AND CULTURAL PRIDE, PRESERVING SACRED CEREMONIES SUCH AS THE INCWALA AND THE VIBRANT UMHLANGA REED DANCE THAT CONTINUE TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A PEOPLE.

PARTICIPATION IN OUR NATIONAL CEREMONIES HAS GROWN REMARKABLY; TOURISM HAS FLOURISHED AS THE WORLD DISCOVERS OUR UNIQUE HERITAGE. AS A RESULT, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY HAS DECENTRALISED WITH THE TRANSFORMATION OF PLACES LIKE BUHLENI AND HLANE INTO THRIVING TOWNS.

MASWATI, WE ARE TRULY GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE CONSISTENTLY GRANTED ME PEACE AND DIALOGUE, RESOLVING CHALLENGES IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION AND RECONCILIATION. THAT HAS BEEN OUR GREATEST SOURCE OF STRENGTH.

REAFFIRMING AND ENTRENCHING OUR IDENTITY

AS A COUNTRY OUR JOURNEY IS MARKED BY THE HISTORIC DECISION TO RECLAIM OUR NAME AS THE **KINGDOM OF ESWATINI**, THROUGH WHICH, WE REAFFIRMED AND ENTRENCHED OUR IDENTITY, HERITAGE, UNITY AND PRIDE AS A PEOPLE.

WE WERE INTENTIONAL IN CLAIMING OUR RIGHTFUL POSITION, BELIEVING THAT OUR DESTINY IS DEFINED BY OUR TURN AROUND INTO A POSITIVE PATRIOTIC OUTLOOK OF THE KINGDOM.

THIS WAS ALSO SEEN BY A CLEAR COMMITMENT OF THE NATION TO SET ASIDE THE COLONIAL CONSTITUTION AND MAKE OUR OWN HISTORY.

THE NATION COLLECTIVELY DEVELOPED AND ADOPTED ITS OWN CONSTITUTION ACT OF 2005. AS YOU WILL RECALL, WE THE PEOPLE TOOK THE DECISION THAT WE SHALL CONTINUOUSLY MODEL OUR OWN FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES AS WE ADAPT TO THE CHANGING TIMES WE LIVE IN.

THIS IS A JOURNEY WE BELIEVE GROUNDS OUR IDENTITY AND UNITY AS EMASWATI.

ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

AS WE REFLECT ON HOW FAR WE HAVE TRAVELLED TOGETHER, WE TAKE PRIDE IN OUR NATION'S REMARKABLE PROGRESS. AT THE TIME OF MY CORONATION, OUR NATIONAL **GDP STOOD AT APPROXIMATELY 1.4 BILLION EMALANGENI. TODAY, IT EXCEEDS 95 BILLION EMALANGENI.**

THIS TRANSFORMATION IS THE FRUIT OF OUR COLLECTIVE DETERMINATION, ENABLED BY THE CONSULTATIVE CULTURE WE HAVE NURTURED OVER THE YEARS.

THROUGH VUSELA DRIVES AND BROAD NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS, WE GAVE BIRTH TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NDS), WHICH IS THE COMPASS GUIDING OUR AMBITION TO BECOME A FIRST WORLD COUNTRY.

WE COMMEND THE ROLE PLAYED BY OUR BUSINESS SECTOR THAT HAS HELPED GROW, TRANSFORM, AND CONSISTENTLY CARRY THE WEIGHT OF OUR ECONOMIC ASPIRATIONS.

MANUFACTURING ALONE NOW CONTRIBUTES APPROXIMATELY 40% OF GDP, DRIVEN BY EXPANDING INDUSTRIES SUCH AS AGRO-PROCESSING, TEXTILES, SUGAR PRODUCTION, AND FORESTRY. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ESTATES HAS ATTRACTED MANY ENTERPRISES, POSITIONING ESWATINI AS A COMPETITIVE INVESTMENT DESTINATION.

OUR EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES FOR EMASWATI INCLUDE THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (RDF), WHICH HAS DISBURSED OVER E1.4 BILLION IN NON-REFUNDABLE SUPPORT AND FINCORP, WHICH HAS EXTENDED OVER E10 BILLION IN LOANS.

WE EQUALLY APPRECIATE THE IMPACT OF PARTNER-FUNDED INITIATIVES AND THE REMARKABLE GROWTH OF COOPERATIVE SCHEMES, WHOSE ASSETS NOW EXCEED E3 BILLION.

THESE REFLECT RISING FINANCIAL LITERACY AND HAVE PLAYED A VITAL ROLE IN POVERTY REDUCTION AND COMMUNITY UPLIFTMENT.

WHILE WE CELEBRATE THIS GROWTH, WE REMAIN MINDFUL THAT CHALLENGES PERSIST, SUCH AS ACCESS TO RESOURCES AND EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS, AND WE RECOMMIT OURSELVES TO ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE HAS BEEN A CORNERSTONE OF OUR ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT. OUR PAVED ROAD NETWORK HAS EXPANDED DRAMATICALLY FROM AROUND 500 KILOMETRES IN 1986 TO OVER 2,000 KILOMETRES TODAY.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE BUILT THE **KING MSWATI III INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT** AT SIKHUPHE TO OPEN ACCESS TO THE KINGDOM FROM ANY PART OF THE GLOBE. STRUCTURES SUCH AS THE MAVUSO TRADE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE ARE SERVING OUR SOCIETY FOR MULTIPLE NEEDS.

WE NOW HAVE THE **ROYAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK AND BIOTECHNOLOGY PARK** TO DRIVE INNOVATION, WHILE THE FORTHCOMING **STRATEGIC OIL RESERVE** WILL ENHANCE OUR ENERGY SECURITY BY ENSURING A STABLE SUPPLY OF OIL AND REDUCING DEPENDENCY ON EXTERNAL SOURCES.

FACTORY SHELLS CONSTRUCTED ACROSS THE REGIONS HAVE DECENTRALISED ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND BROUGHT JOBS CLOSER TO OUR COMMUNITIES. MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY HAVE REVOLUTIONISED THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS AND EXPANDED FINANCIAL INCLUSION, PARTICULARLY IN RURAL AREAS.

TOMORROW WE WILL PROUDLY LAUNCH THE WORLD-CLASS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (ICC) IN EZULWINI, SET TO HOST MAJOR CONFERENCES, BOOST TOURISM, AND CATALYSE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC GROWTH.

WE CALL UPON ALL EMASWATI TO MARKET THIS FACILITY BOLDLY TO THE WORLD. ITS SUCCESS WILL GENERATE ENORMOUS SPINOFFS IN TRANSPORT, HOSPITALITY, RETAIL AND TOURISM, AMONG MANY OTHER BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER AND ELECTRICITY

WE ARE DETERMINED AS A COUNTRY TO ENSURE THAT NO HOUSEHOLD SHOULD BE LEFT IN THE DARK AND THAT NO FAMILY SHOULD WALK KILOMETRES FOR UNSAFE WATER. THESE ARE NOT LUXURIES; THEY ARE BASIC NEEDS.

OVER THE PAST FORTY YEARS, WE HAVE MADE EXTRAORDINARY PROGRESS.

IN 2003, ONLY FIVE PERCENT OF HOMESTEADS IN ESWATINI HAD ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY. TODAY, OFFICIAL ACCESS STANDS AT ABOUT 88 PERCENT.

THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT, OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, AND MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS HAS DRIVEN THIS TRANSFORMATION.

WHEN WE CONNECT A HOME, WE CONNECT DREAMS, SMALL BUSINESSES RUNNING REFRIGERATORS AND SEWING MACHINES, STUDENTS STUDYING UNDER PROPER LIGHTING, OR HEALTH CLINICS STORING LIFE-SAVING MEDICINES.

MUCH WORK STILL LIES AHEAD, AS WE REMAIN WITH A TARGET OF UNIVERSAL ELECTRICITY ACCESS FOR EVERY LISWATI BY 2030. THE SAME MUST APPLY TO WATER ACCESS FOR ALL.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE

A HEALTHY NATION IS A PRODUCTIVE NATION. DRIVEN BY THIS NOTION, WE HAVE PRIORITISED INVESTING IN HEALTH. FROM APPROXIMATELY SIX HOSPITALS AND 162 CLINICS IN THE 1990'S, WE NOW HAVE 16 HOSPITALS AND A NETWORK OF OVER 330 HEALTH FACILITIES.

THE PHALALA FUND HAS ENABLED ACCESS TO SPECIALISED CARE, WHILE WE CONTINUE WORKING TOWARDS THE GOAL THAT NO CITIZEN SHOULD TRAVEL MORE THAN 8 KILOMETRES FOR COMPREHENSIVE, RELIABLE HEALTH SERVICES.

THE COUNTRY HAS FOUGHT HARD AGAINST MAJOR DISEASES SUCH AS HIV/AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA.

THROUGH OUR TENACITY WE HAVE EARNED GLOBAL RECOGNITION AS ESWATINI IS ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES THAT REACHED THE UNAIDS 95-95-95 TARGET WELL AHEAD OF THE 2030 DEADLINE.

ADDITIONALLY, ESWATINI IS THE FIRST IN AFRICA TO ADOPT AND INTRODUCE THE INNOVATIVE LONG-ACTING INJECTABLE PREP, LENACAPAVIR, WHICH PREVENTS NEW HIV INFECTIONS.

ADDITIONALLY, MOTHER-TO-CHILD HIV TRANSMISSION HAS ALSO DROPPED BELOW 5%.

OUR COUNTRY IS THE PIONEER AND PATRON OF THE END MALARIA FUND INITIATIVE, WHICH WE LAUNCHED IN 2019. SINCE ITS INTRODUCTION, MALARIA CASES HAVE DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

WE HAVE ALSO MADE STRIDES IN CARING FOR THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF GRANTS AND FREE HEALTHCARE.

THE RECENT LAUNCH OF A NATIONAL HOUSING PROGRAMME AND OLD-AGE HOMES DEMONSTRATES OUR COMMITMENT TO ENSURE NO LISWATI SHOULD FACE OLD AGE WITHOUT DIGNITY, SHELTER, OR CARE.

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL OUR FRIENDS WHO HAVE SUPPORTED OUR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES IN ENSURING THAT WE STAND TOGETHER TO PROVIDE QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES TO OUR PEOPLE.

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE YOUTH

ANY COUNTRY THAT DEVELOPS MUST HAVE AN EDUCATED AND EMPOWERED YOUTH. THIS HAS DRIVEN OUR EXPANSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.

WE HAVE ENSURED THAT OVER THE YEARS OUR CHILDREN HAVE MORE PRIMARY SCHOOLS ACCESSIBLE AND NOT HAVING TO TRAVEL VERY LONG DISTANCES TO GET PROPER EDUCATION AT THEIR TENDER AGE.

THE COUNTRY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH BY PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES THROUGH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS AND THE LAUNCH OF INITIATIVES SUCH AS THE INGWENYAMA CUP, WHICH BLENDS SPORTS AND CULTURE HELPING TO EXPOSE YOUNG TALENT TO DIVERSE CAREERS.

WE ENCOURAGE THE YOUTH OF ESWATINI TO COLLABORATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT BY BEING INNOVATIVE TO PAVE THE WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE. WE ARE VERY MINDFUL OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES FACING OUR YOUTH AND WE COMMIT TO WORKING HARD TO CHANGE THIS SITUATION.

A NATION AMONG NATIONS

OUR KINGDOM HAS STEADILY CONSOLIDATED ITS SOVEREIGNTY AND STRENGTHENED ITS PLACE AMONG THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OF NATIONS.

IN 1986, OUR INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE WAS MODEST, WITH ONLY A FEW DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS ABROAD. TODAY, WE HAVE EXPANDED THIS FOOTPRINT SIGNIFICANTLY ACROSS THE WORLD, REFLECTING THE STEADY RISE OF ESWATINI'S VOICE AND ENGAGEMENT IN FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

ESWATINI HAS ALWAYS BEEN A COMMITTED MEMBER OF THE UNITED NATIONS, PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT. WE RECALL BEING PART OF THE TRANSITION FROM THE OAU TO THE AFRICAN UNION, FROM THE PTA TO COMESA, FROM SADCC TO SADC AND THE BIRTH OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA).

AS A COUNTRY, WE HAVE GROWN TO FULLY APPRECIATE THAT WE CANNOT EXIST IN ISOLATION, AND WE CONTINUE TO THRIVE BECAUSE OF OUR AFFILIATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS AROUND THE WORLD.

OUR NAME REMAINS ETCHED IN HISTORY, HAVING HOSTED THE MEETING THAT PRODUCED THE EZULWINI CONSENSUS, CALLING FOR FAIR AFRICAN REPRESENTATION ON THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

IT IS THIS RESOLUTION THAT HOLDS THE KEY TO ENDING THE CONFLICTS WE ARE WITNESSING TODAY, AS IT EMPHASISES THE NEED FOR EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION AND DECISION-MAKING THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSE INTERESTS OF ALL NATIONS.

WE URGE OUR LEADERS IN THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO PUT PEACE AHEAD OF ALL OTHER INTERESTS. OUR FOREIGN POLICY IS SIMPLE, "**ASINASITSA — WE HAVE NO ENEMIES**", AND WE WISH TO SEE IT PREVAIL AMONG THE ENTIRE UN FAMILY.

THE JOURNEY AHEAD

THE PAST FOUR DECADES HAVE ALSO SEEN A TRANSFORMATION IN GENDER EQUALITY IN THE COUNTRY. WE NOTE WITH PRIDE HOW ADULT FEMALE LITERACY HAS INCREASED FROM 65% TO OVER 88%.

WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT HAS RISEN TO ABOUT 21% AND THE NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE HAS NEARLY DOUBLED TO ABOUT 47%.

MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOMEN NOW OWN ABOUT 60% OF MICRO, SMALL, AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES.

LIKEWISE, WE CANNOT SPEAK OF 40 YEARS OF PROGRESS WITHOUT ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE. WE NEED TO ACCELERATE REFORESTATION, INVEST IN DROUGHT-RESISTANT CROPS, PROTECT OUR WETLANDS AND BE AGGRESSIVE WITH AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS TO ENSURE FOOD SECURITY. OUR CHILDREN DESERVE AN ESWATINI AS GREEN AND ABUNDANT AS THE ONE WE INHERITED.

A SAFE, SECURE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

TRUE DEVELOPMENT THRIVES ONLY IN A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT. WE COMMEND THE ROYAL ESWATINI POLICE SERVICE, THE UMBUTFO ESWATINI DEFENCE FORCE, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND THE FIRE SERVICES FOR THEIR DEDICATION IN THIS REGARD.

THEIR PROFESSIONAL TRANSFORMATION HAS STRENGTHENED BONDS WITH THE NATION. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED TO NOTE THE ADVANCED GENDER INCLUSIVITY ACROSS THE SECURITY SECTOR, WHICH HAS LED TO A MORE DIVERSE AND REPRESENTATIVE WORKFORCE THAT BETTER REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES.

OVERCOMING ADVERSITY

TRUTH BE TOLD, FORTY YEARS HAVE NOT BEEN A STRAIGHT ROAD. THERE HAVE BEEN SEASONS OF DROUGHT THAT WITHERED OUR FIELDS AND DECIMATED OUR LIVESTOCK.

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CAUSED UNTOLD SUFFERING, WE ALSO FACED INTERNAL STRAINS THAT TESTED OUR CHERISHED SPIRIT OF CONSULTATION AND RECONCILIATION, SUCH AS DISAGREEMENTS AND SOCIAL UNREST THAT CHALLENGED OUR UNITY AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THESE CRISES.

YET, THROUGH EVERY TRIAL, EMASWATI DID NOT BREAK. WE OVERCAME. THAT IS RESILIENCE AND WE COMMEND THIS CHARACTER WHICH IS THE ESWATINI SPIRIT WE SHOULD ALWAYS ADOPT WHEN FACED WITH ADVERSITY.

REFLECTION ON TURNING 58

AS WE LOOK BACK TO 1968, THE PROGRESS WE HAVE ACHIEVED DEMONSTRATES THAT A KING DOES NOT RULE ALONE BUT WITH HIS PEOPLE.

IT INDICATES THAT THE GREATEST GIFT A LEADER CAN RECEIVE IS THE TRUST OF HIS PEOPLE. YOU HAVE GIVEN ME THAT TRUST FOR WHICH I AM TRULY GRATEFUL.

ON MY 58TH BIRTHDAY, I THANK THE INDLOVUKAZI, MY PILLAR, AND EVERY LISWATI WHO HAS PRAYED FOR AND SUPPORTED ME. INDEED OUR FAITH IN GOD HAS GROWN OVER THE YEARS PROVIDING US WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION.

THE CORONATION PROMISE RENEWAL

FORTY YEARS AGO, BEFORE THE NATION, I MADE A COVENANT. TODAY, IN FRONT OF THE SAME NATION AND THE WORLD, I RENEW THAT COVENANT.

I WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE WITH DEVOTION. I WILL UPHOLD OUR TRADITIONS AND OUR CONSTITUTION. I WILL LEAD TOWARDS UNITY, PEACE AND PROSPERITY. AND I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT THE THRONE EXISTS FOR THE PEOPLE.

AS WE MARK THIS RUBY JUBILEE AND MY 58TH BIRTHDAY, LET IT NOT ONLY BE A CELEBRATION OF YEARS PASSED, BUT A RENEWED PLEDGE TO THE FUTURE THAT WE SHALL BUILD TOGETHER, GUIDED BY UNITY, STRENGTHENED BY TRADITION, AND INSPIRED BY HOPE.

I REMAIN, AS ALWAYS, YOUR SERVANT IN DUTY AND IN PURPOSE, DEVOTED TO THE WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF OUR NATION.

IT IS MY SOLEMN PRAYER THAT THE ALMIGHTY GOD MAY CONTINUE TO BLESS, PROTECT AND PROSPER OUR LAND AND PEOPLE, AND FURTHER GUIDE US IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

CONCLUSION

AT THIS JUNCTURE, MAY I ONCE AGAIN THANK MY FELLOW HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT FOR HONOURING US WITH THEIR PRESENCE.

WE WISH TO EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION TO YOU ALL FOR JOINING US THROUGH THESE NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS AND FOR THE GIFTS YOU HAVE SHOWERED US WITH.

AS WE CONCLUDE THIS 40TH YEAR, LET THE SPIRIT OF AGAPE LOVE PREVAIL. IN UNITY IS STRENGTH. MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, BUT MUCH REMAINS. THE NEXT DECADE WILL REQUIRE EVEN MORE FROM US. HOWEVER, I HAVE SEEN WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER. THEREFORE, I HAVE NO FEAR THAT WE WILL OVERCOME, ACHIEVE AND PROSPER.

LET US REMEMBER THE SAYING: "***IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.***" SIYINQABA!!

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