

YOUR MAJESTY THE INDLOVUKAZI,  
EMAKHOSIKATI,  
YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,  
PRIME MINISTER,  
COUNCILLORS,  
CHIEFS,  
CHIEF JUSTICE,  
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,  
CABINET MINISTERS,  
EXCELLENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,  
DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF SENATE,  
SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY,  
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

**SIYANIVUSELA NONKHE BEKUNENE EPHALAMENDE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN YOU ALL HERE TODAY AT LOBAMBA, FOR THIS OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> PARLIAMENT, OF THE KINGDOM OF E-SWATINI.

WE WELCOME THE NATION TO THIS AUGUST HOUSE AND EXTEND A HAND OF FRIENDLINESS AND BROTHERHOOD TO ALL OUR VISITORS, WHO HAVE JOINED US FOR THIS AUSPICIOUS OCCASION.

WE ALSO RECOGNISE THOSE WHO ARE ELECTRONICALLY PRESENT IN OUR MIDST AS THEY FOLLOW PROCEEDINGS THROUGH THE VARIOUS MEDIA PLATFORMS.

## **IMIKHOSI**

HAVING SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED OUR INCWALA CEREMONY, WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD AND OUR ANCESTORS FOR GUIDING US THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD.

THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL THE DIFFERENT REGIMENTS WAS VERY ENCOURAGING. ATTENDANCE AT OTHER IMIKHOSI, SUCH AS UMHLANGA AND EMAGANU, WERE EQUALLY IMPRESSIVE. WE ALSO WELCOME THE PROMOTION OF OUR CULTURE FROM SCHOOLS UP TO THE NATIONAL LEVEL BY DIFFERENT STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS.

THIS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF EMASWATI IN ALL OUR NATIONAL EVENTS, FROM THE FIRST DAY TO THE LAST, HAS REASSURED OUR CONFIDENCE THAT OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE WOULD CONTINUE TO STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

IT IS ALSO ENCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT THE COUNTRY HAS KEPT KING SOMHLOLO'S DREAM ALIVE AS, WE CONTINUE TO HOLD SUCCESSFUL GOOD FRIDAY AND CHURCH PRAYER SERVICES RELIGIOUSLY, BECAUSE GOD REMAINS OUR SOURCE.

**THE YEAR OF GOLDEN JUBILEE**

THIS YEAR IS A YEAR OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE, WHICH IS A YEAR OF PROSPERITY. IT IS A SPECIAL YEAR FOR EMASWATI WHERE WE REFLECT BACK AND SEE WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN OUR LIVES FOR THE PAST 50 YEARS.

IN THE BIBLE A JUBILEE REPRESENTS THE COUNT OF SEVEN TIMES SEVEN YEARS, SO THAT THE SEVEN SABBATH YEARS AMOUNT TO A PERIOD OF FORTY-NINE YEARS, WHERE THE FIFTIETH YEAR BECOMES THE YEAR OF REST FOR THE NATION.

IT IS DECLARED A YEAR OF LIBERTY WHERE EVEN THE BOUND ARE SET FREE, A YEAR OF PARDON WHERE WE FORGIVE EACH OTHER AND LIVE IN PEACE AND PEOPLE ARE RESTORED.

IN THE YEAR OF JUBILEE, A GREATER BLESSING IS PRONOUNCED THAT SHALL CARRY THE NATION FOR THREE YEARS, WHICH WE BELIEVE IT IS THE SEASON THE NATION IS MOVING INTO, AS WE ACCELERATE TO ACHIEVING OUR 2022 AMBITIONS.

THE 6<sup>TH</sup> OF SEPTEMBER 1968, MARKED A NEW DAWN IN THE LIVES OF THE NATION, AS OUR PEOPLE CELEBRATED INDEPENDENCE.

AS WE CELEBRATE THESE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, LET US ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLE PLAYED BY KING SOBHUZA II AND THE ENTIRE SWAZI NATION FOR WORKING IN UNITY LEADING TO THE KINGDOM'S INDEPENDENCE.

LET US TAKE DEEP PRIDE IN THE MILESTONES WE HAVE ACHIEVED AS A COUNTRY, WHICH TODAY STANDS AS ONE OF THE MOST PEACEFUL ACROSS THE GLOBE.

### **CONGRATULATE PARLIAMENTARIANS**

THIS EMINENT GATHERING MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE LAST SESSION FOR OUR CURRENT LEGISLATORS. SINCE 2013, THE NATION TASKED YOU TO SERVE AS ITS EYES AND EARS. WE ARE CONTENT THAT YOU HAVE PERFORMED YOUR OVERSIGHT ROLE TO THE BEST OF YOUR CAPABILITIES.

THE NATION APPLAUDS YOUR UNWAVERING LOVE FOR THE COUNTRY, AS DEMONSTRATED BY YOUR EFFORTS

TOWARDS CREATING A STRONG ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AND FACILITATING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ROBUST SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, WHICH ARE THE KEY PILLARS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

AS YOU RUN YOUR FINAL LAP, WE LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE SESSION THAT WILL MEET THE EXPECTATIONS OF ALL EMASWATI AND ENSURE THAT YOU LEAVE A GOOD LEGACY IN THE CONSTITUENCIES THAT YOU REPRESENT.

### **RE-ALIGNMENT AND TINKHUNDLA CONSTITUENCIES**

THE NATION WILL RECALL THAT THE REALIGNMENT OF TINKHUNDLA WAS ANNOUNCED DURING KUCITFWA KWELIBUTFO.

THEREFORE, WITH THE IMPROVED CONVENIENCE AND PROXIMITY THAT COMES WITH THE NEW CENTRES, WE LOOK FORWARD TO GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE

ELECTION PROCESS - PARTICULARLY BY THE PREVIOUSLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.

THE NATION IS ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FINALISATION OF THE LEGISLATION THAT WILL ENABLE THE ELECTION OF FOUR FEMALES FROM THE FOUR REGIONS TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY IN FULFILMENT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT.

### **NATIONAL ELECTIONS**

AS THE NATION PREPARES TO CAST ITS VOTES IN THE COMING MONTHS, WE ENCOURAGE EVERY LISWATI TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

EVERY ELIGIBLE CITIZEN SHOULD LIVE UP TO OUR SLOGAN WHICH SAYS; ***“NGETE NGASALA NASAKHA LIVE.”***

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WHEN WE VOTE, PLACING THE INTERESTS OF OUR NATION FIRST, SHOULD BE UPPERMOST ON OUR MINDS.

WE EXPECT PARLIAMENTARIANS WHO WILL REMAIN SEIZED WITH CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT SUCCESSFULLY DELIVERS QUALITY EDUCATION, HEALTH, EFFECTIVE SOCIAL PROGRAMMES, MEANINGFUL INVESTMENT, JOB CREATION AND FOOD SECURITY, TO MENTION BUT A FEW.

TEAMWORK BETWEEN PARLIAMENT, CABINET AND THE CITIZENS IS CRITICAL IN THIS REGARD. THE SPIRIT OF HARMONY AND DIALOGUE SHOULD PREVAIL WHERE THERE ARE DIFFERENCES, IN ORDER TO FIND LASTING SOLUTIONS THAT WOULD YIELD MEANINGFUL PROGRESS.

### **ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

THE KINGDOM IS PROJECTED TO HAVE EXPERIENCED POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF 1.9 PERCENT IN 2017. THIS IS AN UPWARD REVISION TO THE EARLIER PROJECTION OF 1.0 PERCENT AND HIGHER THAN THE 2016 GROWTH ESTIMATES OF 1.4 PERCENT.

GOVERNMENT HAS IDENTIFIED SOME QUICK-WIN INITIATIVES THAT PROMISE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

THESE INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO; THE EXTENSION OF BORDER OPERATING HOURS; IDENTIFICATION AND USE OF FARMS FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES; THE DEVELOPMENT OF GREATER SIKHUPHE AREA; AMONGST OTHER PROJECTS.

NEGATIVE RISKS SURROUNDING THE CURRENT FISCAL CHALLENGES WILL NEED TO BE MANAGED EFFECTIVELY IN ORDER TO REALISE THE FULL GAINS FROM THESE PROJECTS.

GOVERNMENT IS ENCOURAGED TO PREPARE A BUDGET THAT IS BASED ON AVAILABLE RESOURCES AS OPPOSED TO FUNDS YET TO BE COLLECTED AS THIS AFFECTS ITS ABILITY TO PAY SERVICE PROVIDERS.

IT ALSO AFFECTS THE IMPLEMENTATION RATE OF PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS THAT HAVE BEEN PLANNED FOR THAT FINANCIAL YEAR.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CRITICAL FOR GOVERNMENT TO DIVERSIFY THE ECONOMY WITH MULTI BILLION EMALANGENI INDUSTRIES, WHICH WOULD REDUCE OUR DEPENDENCE ON SACU.

AS A COUNTRY, WHICH IS PEACEFUL AND DESTINED FOR THE FIRST WORLD, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT.

### **EXPANSION OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT**

GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO CONTINUE WITH EFFORTS TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY (2015-2022).

AS MEMBERS OF SADC, CONTINENTAL AND GLOBAL TRADE ORGANISATIONS, WE ENCOURAGE COMPANIES TO USE EXISTING TRADE AGREEMENTS TO MARKET THEIR PRODUCTS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT, AS WE PURSUE OUR ECONOMIC GROWTH INITIATIVES, WE NEED TO UPSCALE OUR FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION – THE ENEMY OF DEVELOPMENT AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT.

THE KINGDOM HAS JOINED OTHER MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN DECLARING 2018 AS THE AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION YEAR, SO LET EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US PLAY OUR PART EFFECTIVELY.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

THE COUNTRY IS DETERMINED TO PROVIDE THE BEST INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENHANCE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

IN THE 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR A TOTAL OF E5.6 BILLION WAS INVESTED IN PROJECTS. ABOUT E2.9 BILLION WAS PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT WHILE THE BALANCE WAS SECURED THROUGH EXTERNAL LOANS AND GRANTS.

IN THE COMING YEAR, GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE WITH SOME OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THESE INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO; THE NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING, THE NATIONAL STADIUM, THE REFERRAL HOSPITAL AND COMPLETION OF PENDING ROAD PROJECTS.

COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN GOVERNMENT TENDERS, ARE ENCOURAGED TO WORK EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY TOWARDS COMPLETING THEM ON TIME, IN ORDER TO AVOID COST ESCALATIONS.

### **AGRICULTURE AND WATER HARVESTING**

IN LINE WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2, OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA OF THE UNITED NATIONS, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE REMAINS TOP OF OUR AGENDA.

WATER HARVESTING BECOMES CRITICAL IF WE ARE TO REALISE THIS OBJECTIVE. SEVERAL WATER PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY, SUCH AS THE LOWER USUTHU SMALLHOLDER IRRIGATION PROJECT PHASE II, WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FOOD SELF SUFFICIENCY TARGETS.

ANOTHER PROJECT AIMED AT AVAILING POTABLE WATER TO ABOUT 46 000 PEOPLE RESIDING IN THE LOMAHASHA, AS WELL AS THOSE IN NAMAACHA, MOZAMBIQUE BY 2024, WILL ALSO COMMENCE THIS YEAR. THIS WATER WILL BE SOURCED FROM THE SIMUNYE TREATMENT PLANT.

WE REMAIN GRATEFUL TO THE SADC WATER FUND WHICH HAS SUPPORTED THIS PROJECT TO A TUNE OF E117 MILLION.

WE ARE ALSO ENCOURAGED THAT THIS YEAR WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE GOOD RAINS IN MOST PARTS OF

OUR COUNTRY. WE HOPE THIS WILL GIVE US A BUMPER HARVEST THAT WILL BE ABLE TO FEED THE NATION AND ENABLE US TO SELL THE SURPLUS TO OUTSIDE MARKETS.

## **ENERGY**

ENERGY PROVIDES AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR ALMOST ALL HUMAN ACTIVITIES. THIS FORMS THE BASIS OF OUR VISION 2022 GOAL, TO PROVIDE 100% ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY.

IN THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR, WE URGE GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE MEANS OF FINANCING THE EXTENSION OF THE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK, THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

WE ALSO ANTICIPATE THE DEVELOPMENT AND COMMENCEMENT OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST SOLAR POWER PLANT, SITUATED KA-LAVUMISA, AS WELL AS THE LOWER MAGUDUZA HYDRO POWER SCHEME PROJECT. THESE PROJECTS SHOULD MOVE US A STEP CLOSER TO OUR ENERGY GOAL.

IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL THAT WE MAXIMISE THE ENERGY SUPPLY IN ORDER TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT ENOUGH TO CARRY US BEYOND THE EXPIRY OF OUR ENERGY SUPPLY AGREEMENTS, WITH NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI ACCENTUATES THE CRITICAL ROLE PLAYED BY EDUCATION. THE GOVERNMENT IS URGED TO CONTINUE WITH EFFORTS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION.

A QUALITY EDUCATION SYSTEM IS ONE THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND DRIVEN BY EQUITY AND COMPETITIVE REFORMS.

AT A HIGHER LEVEL, THE COUNTRY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A MUCH NEEDED HUMAN CAPITAL OUTPUT AT THE ROYAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK, THROUGH ITS COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR UNIVERSITIES.

THIS PARTNERSHIP OUGHT TO BOOST OUR INNOVATION AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT GOALS, THROUGH INCUBATION AT THE INNOVATION AND BIOTECHNOLOGY PARKS.

AS WE MOVE TO 2022, THE COUNTRY SHOULD ESTABLISH NEW UNIVERSITIES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING THAT COMPLY WITH THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF GOVERNMENT.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THESE WILL HELP PROMOTE GROWTH IN AGRICULTURE, AGRO-PROCESSING, ICT, INCREASE TRADE AND FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT AND CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR PEOPLE.

### **HIV AND AIDS**

ON THE HEALTH FRONT, WE ARE INSPIRED THAT THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI HAS DEMONSTRATED THE ABILITY TO FAST TRACK ACCELERATION OF ENDING AIDS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT BY 2022.

RECENT INDICATORS SHOW THAT THERE IS A GREAT LEVEL OF PROGRESS IN THE DECLINE OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS AMONG ADULTS.

WITH THIS LEVEL OF PROGRESS, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WE WILL MEET THE NATIONAL AND GLOBAL TARGET OF REDUCTION OF NEW INFECTIONS BY 2020.

EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS, WE STILL HAVE A CHALLENGE TO PUT MORE EFFORT TO CONTROL THIS DISEASE.

WE RECOGNISE AND APPLAUD THE SUPPORT FROM PEPFAR, THE GLOBAL FUND, EU AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS WHICH HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN HELPING US ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED SUPPORT WHICH WILL GO A LONG WAY IN HELPING US REALISE OUR 2022 GOAL. I AM FULLY CONVINCED THAT TOGETHER WE CAN.

WE APPLAUD THE SPIRIT OF EMASWATI WHICH THEY HAVE ADOPTED IN ENDING HIV AND AIDS IN 2022. LET US CONTINUE TO TAKE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT OUR LIFESTYLES AND PRACTICES HELP US LIVE UP TO OUR GOAL.

THE COUNTRY REAFFIRMS HER COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE NATIONAL HIV PREVENTION PROGRAMME IS

FULLY FUNDED IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE CHALLENGE OF NEW HIV INFECTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

## **MALARIA**

LESWATINI, HAS LONG BEEN REGARDED AS A GLOBAL MODEL FOR MALARIA ELIMINATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA.

OUR COUNTRY HAS IN THE PAST ACHIEVED RECORDS FOR THE DECLINE IN MALARIA, TO THE POINT WHERE THE KINGDOM WAS PREDICTED BY EXPERTS TO BE THE FIRST COUNTRY IN MAINLAND SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO ACHIEVE ELIMINATION OF MALARIA.

IN RECENT YEARS, WE HAVE CONDUCTED WORLD-CLASS PROGRAMMES FOR CONTROLLING THE VECTOR – THE MOSQUITO - AND FOR MAINTAINING SOME OF THE BEST MALARIA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS ON THE CONTINENT.

GOVERNMENT MUST MAINTAIN OUR STANDARDS AS A LEADING MALARIA ELIMINATION COUNTRY ON THE

CONTINENT. THIS WE MUST DO IN COLLABORATION WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS, AS MALARIA KNOWS NO BORDERS.

## **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

THE AFRICAN UNION HAS PLACED SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT TO CHAMPION THE FUTURE GROWTH OF THE CONTINENT.

AS A COUNTRY, WE FULLY ALIGN OURSELVES WITH THIS OBJECTIVE AND HAVE PUT IN PLACE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES AND STRATEGIES TO FULFILL THIS GOAL.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT TODAY'S YOUTH ARE FACING A VARIETY OF CHALLENGES, WHICH WILL REQUIRE A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED AND MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE.

WE WILL ALSO NEED TO FOCUS ON ENCOURAGING A LABOUR MARKET THAT CAN ABSORB A GROWING YOUNG WORKING-AGE POPULATION - AND ENSURING THAT YOUNG

PEOPLE ARE APPROPRIATELY TRAINED FOR THE NEEDS OF THAT MARKET.

THIS YEAR MARKS THE SECOND EDITION OF THE YOUTH ENTERPRISE REVOLVING FUND AND, AS A COUNTRY; WE ARE EXPECTING MORE YOUTH-LED BUSINESSES TO BE ESTABLISHED. WE ENCOURAGE OUR YOUTH TO TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY.

## **SOCIAL WELFARE**

THE KINGDOM WILL CONTINUE TO INVEST IN ITS SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMMES TO CREATE A SAFETY NET FOR THE VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO GOVERNMENT ENSURING THAT ALL DESERVING CASES ARE ACCOMMODATED, DESPITE THE FISCAL CHALLENGES WE FACE.

THIS CALLS UPON THE MORE FORTUNATE CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS, TO JOIN HANDS WITH GOVERNMENT TO

ENSURE THAT NOBODY GOES FOR A DAY WITHOUT THE NECESSARY CARE AND SUPPORT.

### **PEACE IN THE KINGDOM.**

SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL OUR PREDECESSORS HAVE FROWNED UPON VIOLENCE. THEY PROMOTED PEACE AND COEXISTENCE IN THE KINGDOM.

IT PAINS THE NATION WHEN VIOLENCE RAISES ITS UGLY HEAD IN OUR BEAUTIFUL, PEACEFUL AND BELOVED KINGDOM.

THE ABSENCE OF PEACE IS DETRIMENTAL TO OUR PROGRESS AS INVESTORS SHUN TROUBLED COUNTRIES. TOURISM, WHICH CREATES WEALTH, ALSO STANDS TO SUFFER.

WE CALL UPON EVERY CITIZEN TO PRESERVE BUNTFU AND STRIVE TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH FELLOW CITIZENS AND OTHER NATIONALS.

### **CONFLICT AND MIGRATION**

THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI ALIGNS ITSELF WITH THE GLOBAL CALL FOR ALL WARRING FACTIONS TO LAY DOWN THEIR WEAPONS AND MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE WORLD.

THESE CONFLICTS HAVE CAUSED MORE THAN 65 MILLION PEOPLE TO FLEE THEIR HOMES. MANY ARE DYING IN THE PROCESS, WHILE OTHERS ARE BEING SUBJECTED TO INHUMANE TREATMENT THAT HAS STRIPPED THEM OFF THEIR DIGNITY AS HUMAN BEINGS.

AS A RESPONSE, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ADOPTED A "GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION". WORKING TOGETHER AS NATIONS OF THE WORLD, LET US COOPERATE IN MAKING THIS INITIATIVE A SUCCESS.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

WE SHALL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE GOOD INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WITH ALL OUR FRIENDS. WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND COMMEND THE

SUPPORT FROM OUR DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND FRIENDS OF THE KINGDOM.

## **CONCLUSION**

AS I CONCLUDE, MAY WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE ENTIRE NATION, FOR THE ROLE YOU HAVE PLAYED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE NEW YEAR.

AS HIGHLIGHTED EARLIER, THIS YEAR MARKS THE LAST SESSION OF THIS PARLIAMENT. AS SUCH, IT IS A YEAR OF TRANSITION THAT PRESENTS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR US ALL TO TAKE THIS COUNTRY TO A HIGHER LEVEL OF PROSPERITY.

THIS REQUIRES THE NATION TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE IN PLANNING SESSIONS THAT WILL GENERATE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME FOR THE COUNTRY AND STRATEGIES THAT ARE IN LINE WITH VISION 2022.

THE PLANS TO BE DEVELOPED SHOULD ADDRESS SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND COST-EFFECTIVE MEASURES SHOULD BE APPLIED DURING IMPLEMENTATION, TO ENSURE THAT WE ACHIEVE MORE WITH LESS.

WE SHOULD DO THIS WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE AND UNYIELDING BELIEF THAT NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE CHALLENGE BEFORE US, GOD IS ON OUR SIDE. WE SHALL OVERCOME!

## **DECLARATION**

**I NOW DECLARE THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OFFICIALLY OPEN.**

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