

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF SENATE,  
SENATOR LINDIWE DLAMINI, AT THE STATE OPENING OF THE  
5th SESSION OF THE 11th PARLIAMENT, ON 17 FEBRUARY  
2023**

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*Your Majesty, The King and iNgwenyama;*

*Your Majesty, iNdlovukazi, the Queen Mother;*

*Emakhosikati;*

*Your Royal Highnesses, Bantfwabenkosi;*

*Bobabe Tikhulu;*

*Royal Counsellors;*

*My Colleague, Mr. Speaker;*

*Your Excellency, The Right Honourable Prime Minister;*

*Your Excellency SACU Executive Secretary*

*Your Lordship, The Chief Justice*

*The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister;*

*Honourable Ministers;*

*Honourable Members of Both Houses Of Parliament;*

*Your Excellences', Members Of The Diplomatic Corps And*

*Development Partners;*

*Judges of the Supreme Court,*

***Judges of The High Court, as well as Judges of The Industrial Court;***

***The Learned Attorney General;***

***Regional Administrator - Hhohho Region***

***Your Graces, The Bishops;***

***Parliamentary Service Board;***

***The Clerk to Parliament and Parliamentary Service Staff***

***Distinguished Guests;***

***Members of the Fourth Estate***

***Ladies And Gentlemen***

Your Majesty, it is my high honour and privilege to extend my warm welcome to His Majesty on my own behalf and that of my colleague, Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Petros Mavimbela, and all parliamentarians to this, the inauguration of the Fifth, and last, Session of the Eleventh Parliament. *Bayethe, Wena Waphakathi.*

It is an equal honour and privilege to extend a warm and unreserved welcome to *Mhlekezzi*, Mother of the Nation. Nkhosi.

A special welcome to all those joining us through digital media platforms.

I would like to acknowledge the presence of His Excellency Ambassador Thabo David Khasibe - SACU Executive Secretary.

Your Majesty, amongst us in the gallery, we also recognise the presence of representatives from students and the youth as well as people living with disabilities. The historic gesture will now be a part of our practice in every opening of Parliament. This is in line with His Majesty's Vision for inclusive participation of young people in nation development in order to harness the potential of our youth towards a demographic dividend.

*Mbangazitha*, we are gathered here for the opening ceremony of yet another Session of Parliament. This is a privilege that we, by no measure, take for granted. We are well aware of the hand of God that keeps locating and protecting us, even in such challenging times that have engulfed a multitude of countries the world over. We remain grateful for the successful completion of all the national events, beginning with the very powerful year-end

Thanksgiving Prayer Service for 2022, to “Imikhosi Yelive”, and finally the National Prayer service for “God’s guidance in the year 2023”.

*Hlangalwezwe*, the commencement of this Session occurs at a time when we are filled with hope given your divine declaration that the year 2023, is a year of a “turn around” as a nation. Your Majesty, your wise counsel, embodied in your declaration inspires us as a nation to rise above challenges of all kinds and to focus on finding solutions that will enable us to reclaim what was lost, rebuild what has been destroyed, and restore peace. We continue to be driven by national vision towards our First World status; we cannot afford to move our eyes from that goal, not even for a moment.

*Ngwenyama Ndvuna yeMaswati*, the Eleventh Parliament began its journey on the proverbial “back foot” with the daunting task of reviving the economy. As if that were not enough, we also had to contend with overcoming challenges like COVID 19 and the impact of the global economic crisis. Be that as it may, we did not hang our heads in despair, nor did we allow ourselves to be consumed by these problems, the remnants of which we are still grappling with. In certain respects, these problems made us dig deep and

connect with our innovative selves and embrace the modalities ushered in by the prevailing forth industrial revolution.

*Mbangazitha*, thus far in the life of the Eleventh Parliament, there have been **ninety one (91)** Bills tabled in Parliament, sixty-nine (69) of which were passed, and only eighteen (18) remain outstanding. **Four (4) Bills were withdrawn.** Twenty-five (25) pieces of Subordinate legislation and an equal number of International Instruments were also tabled in the respective Chambers of Parliament. Parliament was able to achieve all this regardless of the prevailing challenges. Parliament was also able to successfully launch and roll out 2022 - 2026 Strategic Plan, website, and the HIV, AIDS and Wellness Strategic Plan. As reported in past Sessions, our parliament was also honoured with various leadership roles at regional, continental, and international fora. We still have a lot of work to do within the duration of the fifth Session, which is unfortunately, also the shortest Session of our term.

*Lwandle Olukhulu*, it would be amiss of me not to mention the unfortunate and unprecedented rate of attrition of parliamentarians. It was indeed a very difficult and unimaginable term of Parliament. Our hearts and prayers are with all the affected families. However,

we are extremely humbled by the Grace of our Almighty God who always allowed us to rise from the ashes like the Phoenix and to continuously soar like the Eagle.

*Hlangalwezwe*, in conclusion, we would like to unequivocally add our voice to the call for the “Silencing of Guns” and all forms violence, especially terrorism. We also fully embrace His Majesty’s guidance that we should always continue to place the country at the forefront of all our endeavours as we build our economy.

Your majesty, it would be a disservice to you and the nation, if I do not take this opportunity to encourage our friends in the Diplomatic Corp and Development Partners to be good guests to a good host and support the Kingdom in “silencing the guns”.

*Ndlal’selwa*, it is also common knowledge that this year is a national election year, and we trust that Emaswati will come out in all their numbers, as in years past, to be part of “Kwakha lokungekwawo” as embodied by our very unique Monarchical Democracy. The advantage of our Tinkhundla system is that candidates elected become the direct representatives of the people who voted for them in Parliament. It is for that reason that Emaswati are encouraged to register and vote.

*Lwandlo' lukhulu, Iphalamende yakho WenaWaphakathi ingitfume kutfula siph o setinkhomo letisihlanu Letintsatfu Tembube Yemhlaba, letimbili Tendlovu Yemhlaba.*

Your Majesty, with these few remarks it is now my singular Honour and privilege to invite His Majesty to address this Joint Sitting of Parliament and the Nation to inaugurate the Fifth (5th) Session of the Eleventh (11th) Parliament.

*Ngekutifoba lokukhulu, Ngwenyama Ndvuna yeMaswati, ngicela Imbube yeMhlaba iphefumulele iPhalamende, iphefumulele Live, nemhla kulesicephu sesihlanu kuyo iPhalamende yelishumi nakunye.*

***Bayethe WenaWaphakathi !***

***Nkhosi Ndlovukazi!***