

GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI



PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER, CLEOPAS SIPHO DLAMINI, ON THE ISSUE OF PHASE TWO OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE WITHIN THE SECURITY FORCES DELIVERED AT THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON THE 20TH OCTOBER 2022

Mr Speaker

Honourable Members

- It is with a sense of duty and of accountability, both to the House and to the Nation, that I am here this afternoon to present this Ministerial Statement.
- Mr Speaker, the Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini is currently engulfed with a number of challenges which Government feels obliged to address in this August House.
- May I begin by addressing the issue of salary restructuring for junior officers in the security forces. Mr Speaker, Government is alive to the concerns by these officers, resulting from the manner

in which an earlier restructuring exercise was implemented. These concerns are understandable and as Government we realise that it has taken too long to have the matter resolved.

- Government has had a number of meetings with security chiefs and staff associations to discuss this matter in the past and apparently no amicable agreement has been reached yet. However, engagements are still ongoing.
- Mr Speaker, in 2014, Government made a policy decision to restructure the organisational structures of His Majesty's Correctional Services and that of the Royal Eswatini Police Service to align them with that of the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force and that of other similar security forces within the SADC Region. A Circular implementing phase one of the restructuring exercise was issued in 2014 and it stated that phase two would follow.
- An attempt was made in 2015 to implement phase two of the restructuring exercise, however, there weren't sufficient funds to implement it. At the time, a consultant was already working on reviewing salaries for all public servants, including the junior security officers. Our belief was that the matter had been resolved during the 2016 Salary Review exercise. However, judging by recent events, the matter is still a major concern to the affected parties, hence the reason we are here today.

- Mr Speaker, Government wants to assure this House and all concerned that Government is dealing with this matter with a view to finding a lasting solution.

Killing of state security officers

- On an equally important note, Mr Speaker, we note with concern the ongoing killings of members of State Security forces and as such, Government unequivocally condemns all acts of violence and terrorism. No act of violence in whatever form can be justified, regardless of the motive.
- Such acts, Mr Speaker, occur amidst calls for a national dialogue and that does not enhance a conducive environment for a free and fair all-inclusive dialogue.
- I wish to pass my sincere condolences to the families, relatives, and colleagues of the two police officers who were killed in the cruellest manner in Manzini on Tuesday morning, as well as a soldier and a warder that were killed this morning. *Sitsi madvudvu kuso sonkhe sive.*

Conclusion

- Mr Speaker, despite the difficult economic times that Government finds herself faced with, I would like to assure this House that we take all concerns from the public very seriously.

Thank you.

H.E Cleopas Siphon Dlamini

PRIME MINISTER