

GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI



END OF YEAR STATEMENT 2025

Siyavusela, bekunene.

As we are nearing the end of the year 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Almighty God, our Father, for the gift of life, for his provision and protection over the Kingdom of Eswatini. Once again, our beloved country was blessed with a peaceful year.

We are grateful for His Majesty the King and Indlovukazi, for the guidance and insight to Government. May the Gracious Lord bless them and strengthen them.

About 26 months ago, Government received a mandate from Sibaya to deal decisively with multiple crises of high unemployment, poor service delivery, sluggish economy, a failing health sector, deep rooted corruption and an education sector in need of revamping.

These challenges, though enormous and complex, are surmountable. His Majesty's Government made considerable progress towards tackling all of them. We do not deceive ourselves, the battle continues.

Following the presentation of the Policy Statement and the formulation of the "Nkwe Programme of Action," Government completed the Grand Plan for National Transformation, a long-term plan for our country which now awaits

adoption after successful presentation to key stakeholders including both houses of Parliament.

The policies and plans championed by the current Government thus far is beginning to arrest the downward trajectory of both economic and social trends. We must stay the course. The best way is to invest in economic growth and focus the limited resources on implementing the Programme of Action and our plans for national transformation.

Against the planned course of action, we provide an abridged progress report for the calendar year.

International Affairs

During the course of the year, the Kingdom of Eswatini assumed major responsibilities in the Global Community, a clear outcome of the investment made by Government in participating in international fora.

- His Majesty King Mswati III was appointed the incoming chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security (Troika).
- Eswatini was also elected president of the Global Council for Political Renewal for the period 2025-2028.
- Eswatini was elected to the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) for the 2025-2028 term, representing the Southern Africa region.
- Eswatini carried out her duties as Chair of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), which was recently handed over to the Solomon Islands.
- Eswatini is also the current chair of the Bureau of the AU's Specialised Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration.

- Eswatini's former Cabinet Minister, Mr. Moses Vilakati, was elected Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE) within the African Union.

All this provides an opportunity for Eswatini to educate the global community about Tinkhundla, to shape international policy and to position the country as a contributor to global political solutions.

The country established diplomatic relations with several countries, including Belarus, Belize, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyz, amongst others. New embassies were established in Saudi Arabia and India.

In recognition of the stature of His Majesty King Mswati III, the country hosted the first ever Conference of African Traditional Leaders, a continental gathering of Kings, queens, chiefs and traditional authorities from across Africa and the diaspora.

Economic Performance

On the economic front, the country's economy showed some resilience with an increase in Real Gross Domestic Product of 3.4 percent in the second quarter of the year. Government will continue to work towards a double digit growth rate and to ensure that this economic growth is felt in practical ways at the individual level and not only observed on paper.

Endeavouring to attract foreign direct investment and to grow the economy, Government hosted the inaugural Investment Conference, where investments worth over E30BN were announced, with a potential to create thousands of new jobs. These investments and corresponding jobs are yet to materialise.

Despite global headwinds, the Kingdom attracted E4.77 billion in total investment commitments and created over 4 700 new jobs with pipeline projects worth over E38 Billion.

Most importantly, the economy is successfully diversifying beyond traditional manufacturing, with significant capital flowing into Mining and Renewable Energy, laying the groundwork for sustainable, long-term growth.

Eswatini is ready for business

It is Government's policy to explore the mining sector in order to grow the economy and reduce unemployment and poverty. More prospective mining licences were issued, including one for coal at Lubhuku.

His Majesty has allocated 500 hectares of land for the construction of an industrial park. The Republic of China, Taiwan, has committed to establishing an industrial park at Nokwane. Government has further initiated feasibility studies for mega projects that will lead us to a double-digit growth rate.

The launch of the Business One Stop Shop (BOSS) by the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Trade is expected to improve efficiency and service to investors whilst an established one stop border management will reduce waiting and clearance times at the border.

In terms of SME support, Government launched the MSME Digital Marketplace, enabling local enterprises to access online markets. At least E12.5 million was disbursed through the MSME Revolving Fund, supporting 317 small enterprises in rural and peri-urban areas and over 1 000 MSMEs were trained in business planning, digital marketing, and financial literacy.

The State Business Relations (SBR) was operationalised.

Energy and natural resources

In line with Government's policy to target universal access to potable water by 2030, Government entered into partnership with World Vision to construct and extend piped water systems to 18 tinkhundla.

Groundwork begun on the construction of the much-awaited strategic fuel reserve facility. The facility will have an initial capacity of 60 days' storage amounting to 80 million litres.

The Kingdom is also concluding talks with the Republic of South Africa for a new 10-year power purchase agreement.

In line with Government's "Nkwe" Programme of Action and in a bid to improve energy security, targeting universal access to electricity, Government continued to provide rural electrification under the Rural Electrification Access Fund (REAF), where Phases 3 and 4 have been completed and benefitted 2 900 communities.

Under the Shiselweni Network Reinforcement and Access project, about 6 000 households were connected with electricity and about 1 200 were connected through ready boards.

Government, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy, signed a 40MW power purchase agreement with Ubombo Sugar and also launched the 75MW Anthem Tsamela Solar Project. It is expected that together with other energy generation initiatives, the country will be self-sufficient by the end of 2028. Government will continue to grow power generation to meet its industrialisation needs.

Disaster Risk Management

The Eswatini Drought Centre of Excellence was launched in September 2025. The Centre of Excellence is a SADC regional hub for innovation, research, and knowledge sharing to build drought resilience. It is expected that the centre for disaster risk reduction will come out with practical solutions to build resilience to the common hazards inducing disasters in the country.

Government, through the National Disaster Management Agency, also launched the Eswatini Flying Lab, the country's first local innovation hub for drone technology in Disaster Risk Reduction and further rolled out the Composite Drought Index – Eswatini (CDI-E) platform. These innovations enable real-time, multi-source early warning data integration, enhancing risk anticipation and community preparedness.

During the year, the Disaster Risk Management Act, 2025 was enacted, which replaces the Disaster Management Act, 2006, providing a proactive framework for disaster risk governance in Eswatini.

Some parts of the country were affected by severe storms that damaged houses, roads and bridges. At least 127 affected households were assisted with shelter recovery, including 24 new constructions and 103 rehabilitations of damaged homes. Government has committed to release funds amounting to E76 million set aside for this purpose.

The country is currently battling with the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak. The Ministry of Agriculture and the NDMA are currently leading the response. Government has committed E40 million towards the containment of the outbreak and a further E57 million is required to procure foot and mouth vaccines. We urge all farmers to adhere to the advice of the Ministry of Agriculture, adhere to the containment measures and collaborate with officials at the check points.

Tinkhundla to the people

During Sibaya, His Majesty and the Nation mandated us to take Tinkhundla to the people. His Majesty has been exemplary in this regard, by being at the forefront of this call, visiting several communities and launching various life-changing projects at Tinkhundla level.

Government, through the Ministry of Tinkhundla Administration and Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development conducted consultations on the Local Government Bill.

The Ministry of Tinkhundla also framed a Public Engagement Mechanism to improve communication between community members and its departments.

Government, through the Regional Development Fund, disbursed approximately E106 million to 74 projects benefitting 8 875 emaSwati and creating 317 jobs.

Education

On the education front, the Task Team established to investigate the state of affairs at the University of Eswatini concluded its investigation and presented the report to Government and the public. The recommendations of the report are currently being implemented.

This year, Government rolled out the Competency Based Education (CBE) curriculum, which will ensure students are equipped with relevant skills and knowledge that aligns them with the job market.

Government filled 1 735 posts within the education sector. Of these were 1 311 temporary teacher positions that were made permanent.

Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs

The Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund approved loans worth over E4.5 million to beneficiaries this year, with E3.4 million already disbursed to beneficiaries. A mentorship platform was established, pairing experienced business mentors with youth entrepreneurs.

Government established regional arts centres and structures in an effort to decentralise services. A recording studio was also established, giving artists a platform to record their craft.

To support young people access white and blue collar jobs, the Eswatini National Youth Council trained 115 youth on CV development to improve the quality of their CVs thereby positioning them to successfully apply for jobs.

The Eswatini Youth Employment Opportunities Project (EYEOP), supported by the World Bank, was launched in 2025. The project aims to tackle youth unemployment by creating income opportunities through skills training (especially in agriculture value chains) and entrepreneurship support and complements existing programmes such as the Eswatini Youth Empowerment Programme (EYEP).

Health

Another key call from Sibaya was for Government to improve to improve access to quality and affordable health care.

To ensure this, Government revamped constructed and revamped a number of facilities, including the Pigg's Peak Hospital, Ndunayithini, Mankayane and Mfishane, amongst others. Government also established a medical liquid oxygen storage and supply infrastructure, commissioned cancer and TB screening mobile clinics, procured a new CT scanner at the Mbabane Government and Manzini Government Hospitals, commissioned an incinerator construction project and procured a Cancer Tissue Processor with the support of the Government of Taiwan.

Following a directive from His Majesty the King, Government formulated the required policy to enable the establishment of a private world class cancer hospital in Manzini. The hospital is 100% locally owned and is the first hospital in the country to treat cancer using radiation.

Through NERCHA and the Ministry of Health, the country rolled out Lenacapavir, which will help reduce HIV infection among the youth for six months after injection. This vaccine is provided for free to emaSwati.

His Majesty's Government is grateful to the People and Government of the United States of America for supporting and resourcing the HIV prevention programme and the signing of a new compact to the tune of E4.1 Billion.

The Ministry of Health noted improvements in the drug stock levels at the country's health facilities, and constructed new lodging quarters for renal patients at the Mbabane Government Hospital. Government would like to extend appreciation to emaSwati for their patience while we were dealing with acute drug shortages.

The Eswatini Medical Supplies Agency Bill, 2025 to convert the Central Medical Stores into a semi-autonomous agency was approved by Parliament and it is desired that this will bring efficiency in the procurement, supply and distribution of drugs.

Social safety net

A total of 114 new houses were constructed by Government and friends of Eswatini, and 274 houses were rehabilitated in 2025. A new and modern design of some of the houses was commissioned following His Majesty's directive to construct houses for the elderly. A total of 631 new houses were constructed and 1 410 houses were rehabilitated by Government in the last 10 years.

The scholarship allowance for Government sponsored tertiary students was increased from E1 600 to E2 000 a month.

Under the Food Assistance programme, Government has been able to feed a total of 263 090 emaSwati from 58 201 households with support from development partners.

A total of 19 436 OVCs were enrolled in the Education Grant Programme and a partial payment of E47 800 938 school fees was made.

Elderly Grant beneficiaries increased to 87 861 (E600/month), and Disability Grant beneficiaries to 17 193 (E450/month). At least 85 elderly funeral assistance claims were processed, totalling E255 000.

Information Technology

There is a notable increase of access to internet for the public after Government connected 48 Tinkhundla Centres, 5 Border Posts and 5 rural Clinics and other Government establishments. This will help improve access to internet to students and Government personnel in rural areas thus improving education outcomes and service delivery.

In collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of China on Taiwan, Smart City Infrastructure and platforms were installed in Mbabane. The infrastructure includes 5G Government Network Project and cameras that will improve security within the city as well as disaster risk management.

Legislative reforms

Cabinet approved and Parliament passed no less than 19 bills during the course of the year. These include the Nuclear and Radiation Safety Bill, the Disaster Risk Management Bill, the Legal Aid Bill, the Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund Bill, the Law Reform and Development Bill, the Finance (Amendment) Bill, the Eswatini Medical Supplies Agency Bill and the Legal Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill, amongst others.

The Eswatini National Pension Fund Draft Bill was reviewed and submitted to Parliament. The objective of the bill is to convert Lidlelantfongeni from a provident fund to a pension and ensure access to pension for all workers

Salary review

Government successfully concluded negotiations and implemented a salary review exercise for public servants as well as addressed the contentious Phase II salary adjustment for uniformed forces.

Labour

Government appreciates all public and private sector employees for the harmonious industrial relations which have helped to give investor confidence and contributed to the country's peace. However, Government notes with concern emerging reports of labour law violations and abuse of employees in some workplaces. Government cautions that it has zero tolerance for such behaviour.

Government is also fostering inclusivity in the workplace and will not leave any liSwati behind.

Food sovereignty

In line with Government's policy to attain food sovereignty, this year's production of beans improved from 377MT to 1 039MT an improvement of 175%. The Eswatini Agricultural Development Fund was operationalised and more than E40 million of soft loans for emaSwati for their agricultural businesses was disbursed. An agreement between Government, USA, John Deere and Standard Bank was signed to provide mechanisation solutions to our agricultural sector through availing 250 tractors and implements over the next five years. Mpakeni Dam is progressing well at 46% completion rate in line for completion within the targeted timelines.

Mindset Change

Concerning mindset change, we have barely begun as a country, but a good foundation has been laid. We call upon all emaSwati to unite and recognise that

only emaSwati can develop themselves for there is no country that developed out of aid. No Nation that denigrates itself can develop. To develop, we must be patriotic, love our own and support our own.

Corruption

Corruption remains a scourge that has spread its tentacles to all arms of Government. However, Government will not relent to fight corruption. The Nation is called upon to expose and report corruption of any form.

Conclusion

I would like to conclude by saying that the country is on a good course for transformation. We are grateful to our development partners and friends, the private sector and the diplomatic community for their support throughout the year. Let us continue to work together to develop our own country with diligence.

On behalf of His Majesty's Government, I wish His Majesty the King, the Queen Mother, all emaSwati and residents of Eswatini a successful Incwala ceremony and a safe transition to the new year.

We pray that 2026 brings for all of us success. May God bless us all.

RUSSELL MMISO DLAMINI

Prime Minister

30 December 2025