



MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER'S
REPRESENTATIVE, THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS HRH
PRINCESS LINDIWE DURING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES: 22 NOVEMBER, 2019 AT MAVUSO
TRADE CENTRE

Programme Directors

Your Royal Highness

Honourable Ministers

Manzini Regional Administrator- Prince Gija

The President of Eswatini Conference of Churches- Bishop Stephen
Masilela

ECC Board Members

Pastors

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and peace-giver Jesus Christ.

I stand here today on behalf of His Excellency the Right Honourable Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini who could not be with us because of other Government commitments. He requested me to send his sincere apologies and also emphasized that he is here with us in spirit.

Today is a joyful moment not only for the Conference of Churches but the entire Christian family in the country- a moment to mark the 90th anniversary since a meeting of most missionaries working in Eswatini established a permanent and unified body of missionaries called 'The Swaziland Missionary Conference' which later transformed to 'Eswatini Conference of Churches' prior to independence in 1968.

The Eswatini Conference of Churches has made a telling contribution to the sustainance of national peace and stability and continues to be a beacon of light, embracing tenets of social welfare, community and national development. You have truly lived to the true calling and values of Christianity, and demonstrated the love of Jesus Christ over the past 90 years by engaging in many projects of national interest and development while winning lost souls to God. Eswatini is a proud Nation that holds dear to her heart the banner of peace - strongly pegged to the need to consistently develop the lives of all Emaswati. There can be no development without peace, cooperation and mutual respect. This is where the Church has a crucial role to play, and I am happy to say it has played this role with distinction.

Government continues to rely on the Church and all peace loving Emaswati to instil the values and ethos of respect and unity of purpose as we surge forward with the national agenda of uplifting the living standards of all our people. We cannot achieve our national development goals without the necessary support from the Church and all Emaswati.

May I take this opportunity to pass my gratitude to all members of the Eswatini Conference of Churches for their unwavering support to Government and for backing and praying for the success of programmes and activities we have embarked upon to lift the lives of Emaswati.

Brethren, His Majesty's Government remains committed to achieving sustained economic growth, thus providing the nation with a conducive environment for the continuous improvement of people's livelihood. We are always open to advice and constructive criticism as it allows us to realign our strategies to meet the needs of Emaswati and achieve steady and sustainable growth.

Government launched a Strategic Roadmap early this year which serves as a master plan for all efforts towards improving the economy. The overriding purpose of this plan is to provide Emaswati with more opportunities to succeed and flourish, allowing them to develop competitive skills that will set the country on the path to achieving Vision 2020. I have great confidence in the ability of the Kingdom of Eswatini to pull through its current challenges and achieve sustained economic growth. As long as we remain focused and stand united, I have no doubt that the best is yet to come for Eswatini.

We must to protect our unique advantages of peace and stability anchored in our long standing cultural values. The Church has to continue nurturing our young people into a new generation with a sense of national identity, who will also be passionate about God and committed to the well-being of our communities.

Programme Director, may I take this opportunity to appeal to all churches in the Kingdom of Eswatini to once again lead the 'CLEAN ESWATINI CAMPAIGN' that was launched in July this year.

This campaign is a long term strategic vision of Government in pursuit of a clean and greener Eswatini. The sad reality is that we have littered our environment and the consequences have had a negative impact on our health, the environment and the economy. Therefore, in every last Saturday of every month from 8am to 10am, all Churches are encouraged to clean their spaces, surroundings areas and road servitudes as the saying goes that 'CLEANLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS'.

As I conclude, let me once again congratulate the Eswatini Conference of Churches for reaching this milestone. It goes without saying that you traversed through many good and challenging times in this journey of 90 years. Through all these times when the terrain was not smooth and bumpy, you held tightly to the word of God and never allowed challenges to distract nor distance you from the great mission of spreading the living Word. Indeed 90 years deserves to be celebrated. Here is to wishing you many more years of success in all your future endeavours and, principally, in bringing more people to God.

May I, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, wish you all the blessings of peace for this anniversary and throughout the coming years. Happy 90th Anniversary Eswatini Conference of Churches!

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL.