WELCOME REMARKS BY HON. JABULANI C. MABUZA, MP
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI
OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
EZULWINI PALAZZO | 21 NOVEMBER 2026

SALUTATIONS

- **HONOURABLE RUSSELL MMISO DLAMINI,** HIS EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, OUR GUEST OF HONOUR,

- **HONOURABLE RANDRIANASOLONIAIKO SITNY THIERRY**, PRESIDENT OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF MADAGASCAR,

- **HONOURABLE SYLVIA ISAKS,** VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA,

- **SENATOR PASTOR LINDIWE DLAMINI,** PRESIDENT OF THE ESWATINI SENATE,

- **HONOURABLE JABULANI C. MABUZA, MP,** SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND HOST SPEAKER,

- DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS, PRESIDING OFFICERS AND HEADS OF DELEGATION FROM SADC MEMBER PARLIAMENTS,

- HONOURABLE MINISTERS,

- **HER EXCELLENCY MS BOEMO SEKGOMA,** SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM,

- **SENATOR DR. LINDA LORRAINE NXUMALO,** CHAIRPERSON OF THE REGIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS AND THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS OF ESWATINI,

- HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND HONOURABLE DEPUTY SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI,

- HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM SADC NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS,

- HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE ESWATINI PARLIAMENT,

- DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE BOARD,

- **COUNCILLOR COMFORT HLOPHE,** HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR OF EZULWINI,

- THEIR EXCELLENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,

- CLERKS AND SECRETARIES GENERAL OF MEMBER PARLIAMENTS,

- **MS. THEMBELA MSIBI,** REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICA YOUTH PARLIAMENT,

- REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE, CIVIL SOCIETY,

- THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS,
- DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

- OBSERVERS AND MEMBERS OF THE FOURTH ESTATE,

- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

SANIBONANI. GOOD MORNING. BONJOUR. BOM DIA.

IT IS MY GREAT PLEASURE, ON BEHALF OF THE PARLIAMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, TO WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM.

TO THOSE VISITING OUR COUNTRY FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE YOU. TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HERE BEFORE, WELCOME BACK. WE ARE HONOURED THAT YOU HAVE TRAVELLED FROM ACROSS OUR REGION TO GATHER IN ESWATINI FOR THIS IMPORTANT ASSEMBLY.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER, WE ARE DEEPLY HONOURED BY YOUR PRESENCE AS OUR GUEST OF HONOUR. THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING OUR INVITATION AND FOR GRACING THIS OCCASION WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT.

I ALSO EXTEND A SPECIAL WELCOME TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE FORUM, THE VICE-PRESIDENT, SPEAKERS, PRESIDING OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, PARLIAMENTARY OFFICIALS, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, AND THE MEDIA. YOUR PRESENCE ENRICHES THIS GATHERING AND REFLECTS OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND REGIONAL COOPERATION.

DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES,

HOSTING THIS ASSEMBLY IS BOTH A PRIVILEGE AND A RESPONSIBILITY. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE CONFIDENCE THAT THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM HAS PLACED IN THE PARLIAMENT OF ESWATINI. WE RECOGNISE THE EFFORT MADE BY EVERY DELEGATION TO BE HERE, AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR PARTICIPATION.

OVER THE COMING DAYS, I ENCOURAGE ALL DELEGATES TO MAKE FULL USE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE OPENLY, EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES AND LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER. THE STRENGTH OF OUR REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS DEPENDS NOT ONLY ON OUR FORMAL RESOLUTIONS BUT ALSO ON THE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND FRIENDSHIPS WE BUILD THROUGH GATHERINGS SUCH AS THIS.

AS HOSTS, OUR COMMITMENT IS SIMPLE: TO ENSURE THAT YOUR STAY IN ESWATINI IS COMFORTABLE, PRODUCTIVE AND MEMORABLE. OUR TEAMS STAND READY TO ASSIST YOU AND TO ENSURE THAT THE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDS SMOOTHLY. SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY SUPPORT, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL UPON OUR SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT STAFF.

ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM AND HER TEAM, AS WELL AS THE PARLIAMENT OF ESWATINI, OUR PARTNERS, SERVICE PROVIDERS AND ALL THOSE WHOSE EFFORTS HAVE MADE THIS ASSEMBLY POSSIBLE. THEIR DEDICATION AND HARD WORK HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL IN PREPARING FOR THIS EVENT.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

WHILE YOUR PROGRAMME WILL BE BUSY, I HOPE YOU WILL ALSO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE BEAUTY AND HOSPITALITY OF ESWATINI. OUR COUNTRY IS BLESSED WITH REMARKABLE LANDSCAPES, A RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE AND, ABOVE ALL, WARM AND WELCOMING PEOPLE. WE TRUST THAT

YOUR VISIT WILL LEAVE YOU WITH FOND MEMORIES OF OUR KINGDOM.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INTERPRETERS WHOSE PROFESSIONALISM ENSURES THAT LANGUAGE NEVER BECOMES A BARRIER TO MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION. THEIR WORK ENABLES US TO ENGAGE EFFECTIVELY ACROSS OUR DIVERSE LINGUISTIC TRADITIONS AND STRENGTHENS THE INCLUSIVENESS OF OUR DELIBERATIONS.

AS WE BEGIN THIS 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY, LET US BE GUIDED BY OUR SHARED VISION OF A PEACEFUL, PROSPEROUS AND INTEGRATED SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION. MAY OUR DISCUSSIONS BE CONSTRUCTIVE, OUR COOPERATION STRENGTHENED AND OUR OUTCOMES BENEFICIAL TO THE PEOPLE WE SERVE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER, HONOURABLE PRESIDENT OF THE FORUM, DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT IS MY HONOUR AND PRIVILEGE TO WELCOME YOU ONCE AGAIN TO THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.

WELCOME TO ESWATINI. WELCOME TO THE 59TH PLENARY ASSEMBLY OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM.

NGIYANEMUKELA ESWATINI.

NGIYABONGA. I THANK YOU. JE VOUS REMERCIE. MUITO OBRIGADO.