

- YOUR MAJESTY THE KING
- **YOUR MAJESTY, THE INDLOVUKAZI,**
- EMAKHOSIKATI,
- **YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, BANTFWABENKHOSI**
- THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER,
- **CHIEFS**
- CHIEF JUSTICE
- **THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**
- COUNCILLORS
- **CABINET MINISTERS**
- EXCELLENCES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS
- **PRESIDING OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT**
- REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE MANZINI REGION
- **COMMISSIONER-GENERALS FROM NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES**
- FORMER COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES...
- **AND ALL RANKS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**
- DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**
- GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON
-

YOUR MAJESTIES, WE COUNT IT A GREAT BLESSING TO HAVE THEIR MAJESTIES' PRESENT IN OUR MIDST AS WE CELEBRATE THE 13TH CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' DAY. YOUR MAJESTIES, OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS "**COMBATING RECIDIVISM THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND POST CUSTODY PROGRAMMES**". YOUR MAJESTY YOU GAVE THE NATION A VISION TO ASPIRE TO, THAT IS TO TRANSITION FROM **THIRD** WORLD TO **FIRST** WORLD STATUS BY 2022. THIS THEME REFLECTS OUR EFFORTS IN ENSURING THAT WE ADOPT THE **BEST INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND NORMS** IN REDUCING THE RATE OF OFFENDERS RELAPSING TO CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AFTER COMPLETING THEIR CORRECTION TERM. THIS, YOUR MAJESTIES IS AN IMPORTANT DIMENSION IN ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE NATION

THE DEPARTMENT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF ICT HAS DEVELOPED, INHOUSE, AN **OFFENDER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME** WHICH WILL BE USED FOR MANAGING ALL REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES. IN THE LONG TERM, YOUR MAJESTIES, THE DEPARTMENT IS LOOKING AT **ENHANCING ITS ICT PROGRAMMES** IN THE AREA OF CASE MANAGEMENT, ELECTRONIC TAGGING OF INMATES AND INTEGRATION TO ALL JUSTICE SECTOR SYSTEMS.

YOUR MAJESTIES, THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONTINUED TO PRIORITISE **JUVENILE REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION**, BY GIVING CHILDREN WHO FIND THEMSELVES IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW A SECOND CHANCE IN LIFE THROUGH FORMAL EDUCATION AT VULAMASANGO SCHOOL WHICH RECORDED AN OVERALL 90% PASS RATE IN THE LAST EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS.

FUTHERMORE, OTHER OFFENDERS IN THE VARIOUS CORRECTIONAL CENTRES DID WELL IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION (SEBENTA) EXAMINATIONS.

YOUR MAJESTIES, THE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES ARE CURRENTLY **OVERCROWDED** BY 29% AND EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS TO REDUCE THIS RATE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE ITS INTENDED OBJECTIVE OF **REDUCING THE ESCAPE RATE** TO LESS THAN 0.006% WHICH IS COMMENDABLE, GIVEN THE UNSATISFACTORY STATE OF SOME OF OUR FACILITIES. YOUR MAJESTIES, THE DEPARTMENT WILL CONTINUE TO PRIORITISE SECURITY, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION IN FULLFILMENT OF ITS CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

THROUGH YOUR WISE LEADERSHIP, YOUR MAJESTY, THE COUNTRY MADE HISTORY LAST YEAR WHEN **OFFENDERS VOTED** FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME IN THE COUNTRY'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS. BAYETHE WENA WAPHAKATHI, NKHOSI NDLOVUKAZI MHLEKAZI.

THE DEPARTMENT WAS **RECENTLY AWARDED** THE ESWATINI CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD UNDER THE GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES CATERGORY WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED TO DISPALYED VALUES OF LOYALTY, DISCIPLINE, INTEGRITY, RESPECT, PROFESSIONALISM AMONGST OTHER ATTRIBUTES.

YOUR MAJESTIES, WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THE REVIEW OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES **LEGISTATION** WHICH WILL HELP IMPROVE CORRECTIONAL ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT. WE ALSO THANK YOU YOUR MAJESTIES FOR MITIGATING THE SERIOUS SHORTAGE OF **ACCOMMODATION FOR OFFICERS**, THROUGH THE CONSTRUCTION OF BLOCKS OF FLATS IN THE MOST AFFECTED CORRECTIONAL CENTRES. YOUR MAJESTIES, **THIS FINANCIAL YEAR**, THE MATSAPHA CORRECTIONAL AND THE NHLANGANO CORRECTIONAL CENTRES WILL BE REHABILITATED.

BAYETHE WENA WAPHAKATHI, NKHOSI NDLOVUKAZI.

MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO **PRESENT GIFTS** TO THEIR MAJESTIES ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT. WE WISH TO PRESENT;

THREE BEASTS FOR HIS MAJESTY THE KING AND

TWO FOR THE QUEEN MOTHER AS WELL AS **VEGETABLES** IN TWO BAKKIES.

BAYETHE WENA WAPHAKATHI, NKHOSI NDLOVUKAZI.

AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY I NOW CALL UPON HIS EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER, **MANDVULO AMBROSE DLAMINI** TO PROCEED. YOUR EXCELLENCY PLEASE.

BAYETHE, WENA WAPHAKATHI,

NKHOSI, NDLOVUKAZI, MHLEKAZI.