

Speaking Points:
EU Ambassador H.E. Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones

Commemoration of the International Human Rights Day
Sibane Hotel, Ezulwini,
10th December 2019

Observing all protocol....

- I am happy to be here this morning to make these few remarks on this important occasion where we join the global community to Commemorate the International Human Rights Day.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights turns 70 this year. Major milestones have been achieved globally in the human rights front but there is still a lot to be done to ensure that all human beings enjoy fully the rights enshrined in this convention
- The European Union is founded on a strong commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, liberty, democracy and respect for fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.
- Human rights are at the heart of our relations and development cooperation with other countries and regions. We seek to mainstream human rights concerns into all policies and programmes— including financing specific projects that promote democracy and human rights.
- For the EU the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law are quite critical in the development process of every country and society.
- **In Eswatini:** EU funded projects in sectors such as agriculture and social protection; human rights form a central theme as we seek to promote the rights-based approach development cooperation.

Gender Based Violence

- This event is taking place in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender based violence and the International Human Rights Day.

- The 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence is a very important period used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.
- For Eswatini, the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, 2018 provide the necessary legal framework to fight against the problem of gender based violence.
- It is very important to come up with effective and sustainable intervention against the problem of sexual offences and domestic violence.
- I call upon everyone to play their role to ensure that women are protected from any forms of violence.
- **Punish the perpetrators:** Perpetrators of sexual and domestic violence should be brought to book and face the might of the law
- **Ratification of International Convention:** The Kingdom of Eswatini has ratified a number of international and regional human rights treaties and conventions.
- It is important for the Government to take the necessary steps to domesticate these international conventions so that there is harmony with the national laws.
- Let's stand up for equality, justice and human dignity.

I thank you! Siyabonga!