

**SPEECH FOR MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
PHOLILE SHAKANTU FOR THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' DAY**

15th JULY 2022

- YOUR MAJESTY THE KING
 - YOUR MAJESTY, THE INDLOVUKAZI,
 - EMAKHOSIKATI,
 - YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, BANTFWABENKHOSI
 - THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER,
 - CHIEFS
 - YOUR LORDSHIP THE CHIEF JUSTICE
 - 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
 - COMMISSIONERS-GENERAL FROM THE CONTINENT
 - FORMER COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AND ALL RANKS OF THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
 - DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
 - LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
 - GOOD MORNING/AFTERNOON
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- YOUR MAJESTY, WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE THEIR MAJESTIES' PRESENCE IN OUR MIDST TODAY AS WE CELEBRATE THE 14TH CORRECTIONAL SERVICES' DAY. YOUR MAJESTIES, OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS "MORDENISING CORRECTIONS INFRASTRUCTURE TOWARDS IMPROVED INTERVENTIONS". THIS THEME REFLECTS OUR EFFORTS IN ENHANCING THE SAFE AND HUMANE DETENTION OF OFFENDERS IN LINE WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF 2005, CORRECTIONAL SERVICES ACT OF 2017 AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS ON CORRECTIONS DISPENSATION. THE THEME ALSO REFLECTS OUR RENOWNED CAPACITY IN SAFETY AND SECURITY AND PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE ON THE CONTAIMENT AND CLASSIFICATION MECHANISMS FOR OFFENDERS IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM.

- YOUR MAJESTIES, THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES REGULATIONS HAVE REACHED THE AUGUST HOUSE AND THEY BRING WITH THEM VARIOUS INTERVENTIONS FOR REHABILITATION, LIKE, SOCIAL REINTEGRATION, OFFENDER MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND DE-CONGESTING MECHANISMS AMONGST OTHER THINGS. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THEY WILL BE PROMALGATED INTO LAW SOON.
- YOUR MAJESTIES, IT IS PLEASING TO NOTE THAT HIS MAJESTY'S CORRECTIONAL SERVICES WAS ABLE TO MANAGE AND MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 WITHIN HER CENTRES THROUGH FOLLOWING THE LAID DOWN NATIONAL REGULATIONS AND BANNING VISITS TO OFFENDERS IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE EXPOSURE TO THE PANDEMIC. I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMAND, HEALTHCARE SERVICES STAFF AND ALL RANKS FOR THEIR ROLE IN ENSURING THAT OFFENDERS HAVE MINIMUM EXPOSURE AND THAT THOSE INFECTED WERE ISOLATED PROMPTLY AND GIVEN THE NECESSARY MEDICATION TIMEOUSLY IN ORDER TO SAVE THEIR LIVES. APPRECIATION GOES TO THE DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS TASKED WITH MANAGING AND MITIGATING THE SPREAD AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC NATIONALY.
- YOUR MAJESTIES, THE DEPARTMENT IN FULL SUPPORT OF GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGIES, WHICH HAVE A MULTIPLIER EFFECT TO REDUCE OVERCROWDING IN THE CORRECTIONAL CENTRES. ACCORDING TO ECONOMIC THEORIES, CRIME RATE DECREASE WHEN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCREASE. THAT IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR ALL EMASWATI TO WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS SUPPORTING ALL INITIATIVES AIMED AT REVITALIZING THE ECONOMY AND STAND AGAINST ALL THOSE WHO ARE ENGAGED IN ECONOMIC SABOTAGE WHICH IS CAUSING EMASWATI TO LOOSE JOBS AND MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD. IT IS FOR THAT REASON THAT HIS MAJESTY'S CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IS ENGAGED IN REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES SUPPORTED BY VOCATIONAL SKILLS TRAINING. THESE PROGRAMS ARE AIMED AT EQUIPPING OFFENDERS WITH REQUISITE SKILLS AND POSITIVE MINDSET FOR USE UPON RELEASE TO BE LAW-ABIDING AND PRODUCTIVE CITIZENS AND AS A RESULT BREAK THE CYCLE OF REPEAT-OFFENDING.

- WE ARE PROUD YOUR MAJESTY TO REPORT THAT THE UNIFORM THAT OFFICIALS ARE WEARING TODAY IS A PRODUCT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.
- YOUR MAJESTIES THE DEPARTMENT HAS MADE STRIDES TO IMPROVE THE INTEGRATED SECURITY SYSTEMS IN ORDER TO SUPPORT GROUND SECURITY FORMATIONS. A DIGITAL RADIO COMMUNICATION NETWORK HAS BEEN PUT IN PLACE INCLUDING CCTV CAMERAS AND BIOMETRIC CONTROLS. WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL TO GOVERNMENT FOR SANCTIONING THE ELECTRONIC CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WHICH WILL IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF REMAND INMATES, AS WELL AS REDUCE BACKLOG IN THE FINALISATION OF CASES. THE CASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM WILL BE VERY HELPFUL IN MANAGING OFFENDER TREATMENT PLANS.
- YOUR MAJESTIES, MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE THE YOUNG HEROES AT VULAMASANGO FOR SCOOPING THE TOP AWARD NATIONALLY UNDER THE JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. THEY REPRESENTED THE KINGDOM WELL REGIONALLY AS THEY SCOOPED THE SECOND POSITION AND GOT THEMSELVES THE FEDICS AWARD. THESE YOUNG HEROES SHOWCASED A HYDROPOWER STATION TO SCOOP THESE AWARDS.
- YOUR MAJESTIES WE ARE GRATEFUL TO UNDP FOR THE PILOT REMAND HEARING PROJECT IN MBABANE WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL DRASTICALLY REDUCE MOVEMENTS TO COURTS AS REMAND HEARINGS WILL NOW BE CONDUCTED REMOTELY WHERE APPLICABLE. THIS KIND GESTURE HAS HELPED US IN OUR QUEST TO IMPROVE IN THE ITC FIELD.
- INSPITE OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS THE DEPARTMENT STILL FACES A NUMBER OF CHALLENGES LIKE THE SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATION RESULTING IN A NUMBER OF OFFICERS RESIDING OFF-CAMP. DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT ARE ONGOING FOR BUDGET ALLOCATION TO ADD ACCOMMODATION STRUCTURES.
- YOUR MAJESTIES, CLIMATE CHANGE POSES A SERIOUS RISK IN AGRICULTURE AND THE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IS NOT SPARED AS IT PRODUCES GRAIN CROPS AND VEGETABLES TO AUGMENT THE RATIONS BUDGET. THE DEPARTMENT IS WORKING ON STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF

CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH SMART AGRICULTURE PRACTICES AND EXPLORING THE PROSPECTS OF GREEN HOUSES IN ORDER TO PRODUCE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- YOUR MAJESTIES, WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT HIS MAJESTY'S CORRECTIONAL SERVICES IS A MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN CORRECTIONS ASSOCIATION (ACSA) WHOSE OBJECTIVES SEEKS TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP THE CORRECTIONS DISPENSATION IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT THROUGH SHARING OF BEST PRACTICES, ADVOCACY, SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE. THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI IS CURRENTLY THE REGIONAL CHAIR OF ACSA IN THE SADC REGION. SIYALIBONGELA LIVE. PRESENT WITH US TODAY IS THE VICE-CHAIR OF ACSA FROM RWANDA, THE SECRETARY OF ACSA FROM UGANDA AND THE TREASURY OF ACSA FROM GHANA.
- MAY I CONCLUDE BY THANKING HIS MAJESTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR STATE OF THE ART CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES. THREE FACILITIES WILL CATER FOR MEDIUM DETENTION HOLDING A CAPACITY OF 160 EACH AND ONE IS MAXIMUM SECURITY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY WITH A CAPACITY OF 80. THREE FACILITIES ARE NOW COMPLETE AND READY FOR OCCUPATION. THESE NEW FACILITIES ARE DESIGNED AND WILL BE MANAGED TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM FEASIBLE SAFETY FOR INMATES, STAFF AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC. WE THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY FOR THESE FACILITIES WHICH ARE INLINE WITH YOUR VISION FOR THE NATION THAT WE ATTAIN FIRST WORLD STATUS BY 2022. WE ARE GLAD THAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED THIS BY 2022. BAYETHE WENA WAPHAKATHI!
- MAY I NOW TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST HIS EXCELLENCY, THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER, CLEOPAS SIPHO DLAMINI TO DO HIS JOB.
- HOWEVER, BEFORE DOING SO, THE DEPARTMENT HAVE GIFTS TO PRESENT; THREE BEASTS FOR THE KING AND TWO FOR THE QUEEN MOTHER AS WELL AS VEGETABLES IN ONE BAKKIE.
- THE DEPARTMENT ALSO PRESENTS PHILANI MASWATI WITH A CHEQUE OF FIFTY THOUSAND EMALANGENI (E50, 000.00)

BAYETHE, WENA WAPHAKATHI, NKHOSI, NDLOVUKAZI, MHLEKAZI.