

# **KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND**



## **SPEECH**

**BY**

**HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III DURING THE  
VISIT TO SACU HEADQUARTERS IN  
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA.**

**11<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2017**

**KING'S OFFICE**

HONOURABLE MINISTERS,  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SACU,  
STAFF MEMBERS OF THE SACU SECRETARIAT,  
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

## **INTRODUCTION**

IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO VISIT THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION (SACU) HEADQUARTERS TODAY IN MY CAPACITY AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF OUR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION SACU. I AM ALSO HUMBLLED TO BE THE FIRST CHAIRPERSON TO UNDERTAKE THIS VISIT TO THE SACU SECRETARIAT, ESPECIALLY AT THIS NEW BUILDING.

MY VISIT HERE IS MAINLY TO SEE YOU AND ENCOURAGE THE SECRETARIAT STAFF TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR GOOD WORK AND WE HOPE THE TREND STARTED BY THE KINGDOM AS CHAIR OF SACU SHALL PROPEL FUTURE CHAIRPERSON'S TO FIND TIME AND VISIT THE HEADQUARTERS.

## **CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

I HAVE JUST BEEN TAKEN AROUND THE BUILDING AND I HAVE BEEN HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I HAVE SEEN. I RECALL VIVIDLY THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION FOR OUR ORGANISATION THAT WAS HELD ON THESE VERY PREMISES IN 2010.

IT WAS A HISTORIC AND MOMENTOUS OCCASION, WHERE THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ADOPTED A VISION AND MISSION FOR SACU AND AGREED TO FORMALISE THEIR MEETINGS.

THE LEADERS ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONDUCT THE GROUND-BREAKING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING. FOUR YEARS LATER, THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING WAS COMPLETED, AND IT WAS INAUGURATED IN 2015.

LET ME THEREFORE, CONGRATULATE ALL THE OFFICIALS AND EXPERTS THAT WERE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT AND ENSURING ITS SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION. IT IS TRULY A MAGNIFICENT STRUCTURE, BEFITTING THE STATUS OF OUR REGIONAL ORGANIZATION.

THE BUILDING OFFERS A CONDUCIVE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT TO EXCEL IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DUTIES.

YOU SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN THE STRUCTURE AND WE URGE YOU TO KEEP THE BUILDING WELL LOOKED AFTER FOR IT TO SUSTAIN US FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

### **SACU SUMMIT 2017**

FOLLOWING THE AGREEMENT BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH THE SACU SUMMITS, GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED IN INTEGRATING THE WORK OF THE SUMMIT INTO THE AGENDA.

THE FORTHCOMING PLANNED SACU SUMMIT WILL, AMONG OTHER ISSUES, CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP THAT WAS APPROVED IN NOVEMBER 2015 BY THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT.

OUR ORGANISATION IS VERY IMPORTANT TO OUR ECONOMIES AS THE SUCCESS ATTAINED IN ITS OBJECTIVES TRANSLATE INTO ACHIEVEMENTS IN OUR RESPECTIVE MEMBER STATES AND, COLLECTIVELY, IN THE REGION.

IT IS THROUGH SACU THAT INCREASED MARKETS FOR GOODS AND SERVICES FROM THE REGION CAN BE SECURED THROUGH THE VARIOUS ON-GOING TRADE NEGOTIATIONS THAT ARE AIMED AT ADVANCING GREATER REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL INTEGRATION.

SACU PARTICIPATES AS A BLOC AND ADVANCES COMMON POSITIONS IN THE COMESA – EAC - SADC TRIPARTITE, AS WELL AS THE CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA NEGOTIATIONS.

WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT AT THE SACU LEVEL, REGIONAL INDUSTRIALISATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE OVER-ARCHING PRIORITY AREA IN THE SACU WORK PROGRAMME. IT ADDRESSES THE FORMULATION OF POLICY INITIATIVES AS WELL AS THE IDENTIFICATION OF CROSS-BORDER VALUE CHAINS.

THIS OBJECTIVE WILL BE FURTHER ADVANCED AS PART OF THE REVIEW OF THE SACU WORK PROGRAMME. THIS RECOGNITION SUPPORTS SACU'S EFFORTS TO PLAY AN INTEGRAL AND ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE REGIONAL AND GLOBAL INTEGRATION AGENDA. IT THEREFORE MOVES AWAY FROM THE TRADITIONAL PERCEPTION OF SACU ONLY SERVING AS A REVENUE COLLECTION AND SHARING ARRANGEMENT.

## **SACU OPERATIONS**

WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO HAVE NOTED THAT SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT, THE SECRETARIAT HAS MAINTAINED SOUND FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE PRACTICES.

ALL THE AUDITS CONDUCTED OVER THE YEARS HAVE BEEN VERY POSITIVE, AN ACHIEVEMENT THAT YOU SHOULD ALL TAKE PRIDE IN AS STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT. THIS IS HIGHLY COMMENDABLE AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED IN THE FUTURE.

THE SECRETARIAT IS APPLAUDED FOR UNDERTAKING REGULAR REVIEWS OF ITS POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN ITS OPERATIONS, AS WELL AS DEVELOPING NEW POLICIES TO ADDRESS EMERGING ISSUES AND ALIGN WITH BEST INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE.

BY VIRTUE OF YOUR APPOINTMENT AT THE SECRETARIAT, YOU HAVE BECOME THE AMBASSADORS OF SACU. REGARDLESS OF THE POSITION YOU HOLD, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT YOU ARE A VALUABLE PART OF A CRUCIAL TEAM THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE SUCCESS OF SACU.

THROUGH YOUR PROFESSIONALISM AND IMPARTIALITY, YOU SHOULD SERVE THE ORGANISATION WITH UTMOST DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO ENSURE THAT SACU EXCELS AND ATTAINS ITS OBJECTIVES.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, TO ENSURE CONTINUED EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE SECRETARIAT'S OPERATION. HUMAN RESOURCES ARE A CRITICAL ASSET OF ANY ORGANIZATION.

THEREFORE, IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS STAFF WELFARE AND RELATED ISSUES TO MAINTAIN HIGH STAFF MORALE THAT IS CRITICAL FOR THE SECRETARIAT'S EFFORTS OF EFFECTIVELY DELIVERING ON ITS MANDATE.

THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHALLENGES IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SACU WORK PROGRAMME.

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT FOLLOWING THE STRATEGIC RETREAT BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, THE SUMMIT IS READY TO CONSIDER THE OUTCOMES AND PROVIDE THE NECESSARY GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION ON THE WORK PROGRAMME.

THIS PROCESS WILL PLACE INCREASED CHALLENGES ON THE SECRETARIAT TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME OVER AND ABOVE THE REGULAR ON-GOING ACTIVITIES.

IT IS THEREFORE IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE ALL READY AND WELL PREPARED TO PLAY A PROACTIVE AND EFFECTIVE ROLE TO SUPPORT THE MEMBER STATES IN THIS PROCESS.

## CONCLUSION

AS I CONCLUDE, MAY I CALL UPON US ALL TO RECOMMIT TO THE SACU VISION OF ***"AN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WITH EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, DEDICATED TO THE WELFARE OF ITS PEOPLE FOR A COMMON FUTURE"***.

THIS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED THROUGH EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND ALL OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF SACU.

I WOULD THEREFORE, ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO CONTINUE SERVING THE MEMBER STATES IN THE PROFESSIONAL MANNER THAT YOU HAVE DONE OVER THE YEARS. THE CONTRIBUTIONS YOU MAKE IN YOUR RESPECTIVE AREAS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED AS THEY SUPPORT SACU'S EFFORTS IN REACHING ITS OBJECTIVES; SO KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

AS THE CHAIR OF SACU WE WILL ENSURE THAT WE DO ALL THAT WE CAN DURING OUR TERM TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF SACU AS OUR COMMITMENT.

THE ULTIMATE AIM IS TO ACHIEVE ALL THE GOALS SET OUT IN THE SACU AGREEMENT AND WE WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR WORK AT THE SECRETARIAT.

ON BEHALF OF SACU LEADERS, LET ME ONCE AGAIN CONVEY OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA, FOR HOSTING THE SACU HEADQUARTERS AND FOR THE SUPPORT BEING RENDERED TO THE OPERATIONS OF THE SACU SECRETARIAT.

AS LEADERS WE REMAIN AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE THE POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC GUIDANCE ON ANY ISSUES THAT ARE REFERRED TO THE SUMMIT FOR DIRECTION.

FINALLY, MAY I EXTEND OUR PROFOUND APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT, THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA FOR THE WARM WELCOME EXTENDED TO ME, INKHOSIKATI AND MY DELEGATION SINCE OUR ARRIVAL HERE IN WINDHOEK. THE RECEPTION AFFORDED TO US BY THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE HAS GIVEN US A TRUE EXPERIENCE OF AFRICAN HOSPITALITY.

**I THANK YOU, MAY THE ALMIGHTY GOD BLESS US ALL.**