

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF SENATE,
SENATOR LINDIWE DLAMINI, AT THE STATE OPENING OF THE
2nd SESSION OF THE 12th PARLIAMENT, ON 31 JANUARY 2025**

Your Majesty, The King and iNgwenyama;

Your Majesty, iNdlovukazi, the Queen Mother;

Emakhosikati;

Your Royal Highnesses, Bantfwabenkosi;

Bobabe Tikhulu;

Royal Counsellors;

My Colleague, Mr. Speaker;

Your Excellency, The Right Honourable Prime Minister;

*The Right Honourable Hon. Chief Fortune Charumbira –
President of the Pan African Parliament*

Your Lordship, The Chief Justice

The Honourable Deputy Prime Minister;

Honourable Ministers;

Honourable Members of Both Houses Of Parliament;

*Your Excellences', Members Of The Diplomatic Corps And
Development Partners;*

Judges of the Supreme Court,

*Judges of The High Court, as well as Judges of The Industrial
Court;*

The Learned Attorney General;

Regional Administrator - Hhohho Region

Your Graces, The Bishops;

Parliamentary Service Board;

The Clerk to Parliament and Parliamentary Service Staff

Distinguished Guests;

Members of the Fourth Estate

Ladies And Gentlemen

Your Majesty, it is my high honour and privilege to extend my warm welcome to His Majesty on my own behalf and that of my colleague, Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Hon. Jabulani Mabuza, and all parliamentarians to this, the inauguration of the First Session of the twelfth Parliament. *Bayethe, Wena Waphakathi.*

It is an equal honour and privilege to extend a warm and unreserved welcome to *Mhlekazi*, Mother of the Nation. Nkhosi.

A special welcome to all those joining us through digital media platforms.

Mbangazitha, it is always a blessing to gather here on the backdrop of the successful conclusion of “Imikhosi Yelive” and the “Year Opening” National Prayer Service. We continue to observe the ever increasing numbers of Emaswati, year upon year, that

continue to uphold this Heritage. Particularly gratifying, was the humbling numbers of *Ingatja* that came from all corners of Eswatini to participate during the Incwala National Ceremony. It is promising, as you encouraged us, that this 'Heritage will be upheld and transmitted for the benefit of our future generations'.

Ngwenyama Ndvuna YeMaswati, the Youth is a very important sector of our society. As the popular saying goes; "*we do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our Children*". We therefore need to ensure that we guide the process of preparing leaders of tomorrow. In our context as a country, the youth can only be great leaders if they engage in critical activities that represent what is intrinsically us as the Eswatini nation. This will promote sustainable development and reduce mental issues associated with mental health in the youth which is an increasing cause for youth suicide.

Your Majesty, we also have to acknowledge and appreciate the plentiful rains that we have received in this past season. In that same vein *Ngwenyama*, we can no-longer continue to bury our heads in the sand when it comes to natural phenomenons like Climate Change. In actual fact, Climate Change is no longer a phenomenon as much as it is a disturbing part of our day to day existence. We extent words of comfort to all the families and

households that were affected by the violent storms that were experienced recently. Equally, we are humbled and encouraged by the human spirit that was experienced when Emaswati come out and supported, in different ways, all those that were affected by the storms. We cannot forget to commend the National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA) for its visibility during this trying time. We saw them all over the country offering the much needed assistance where possible. Parliament, in both Chambers, realising the sensitivity of Climate Change, has also established Climate Change Sessional Committees to deal with the intricate factors associated with Climate Change with a view of finding sustainable solutions.

Lwandle Olukhulu, at this juncture, I would also like to take this opportunity to send a strong warning against the scourge that is Gender Based Violence (GBV). “*Maswati lamahle asingadlani sicedzane sodvwa*”! Our calling is to embrace Love, Tolerance, Peace, and Unity.

Hlangalwezwe, when you inaugurated the 1st Session of the 12th Parliament you urged us to ‘establish a collaborative partnership with the other branches of Government and enhance service delivery to the nation with the highest level of efficiency and speed’. This is indeed still within the confines of the “*Nkwe Declaration*.” I

hereby take this opportunity to report that Parliament continued to pass Bills and adopt sub-ordinate legislation tabled in the Chambers. Further to that, Parliament, working through its Committees, continued to work diligently in executing its mandate. I report that there currently exists, though not without the necessary vigour, an harmonious relationship between the Legislature and the Executive. I would also like to report that the Parliament of the Kingdom of Eswatini continues to maintain a global footprint through the regional and international entities that we are affiliated to.

Ndlal'selwa, we will recall that in our recent national elections (2023) we witnessed an increase in the membership of women in Parliament. In that vein, it gives me pleasure to report that the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), comprising all the female members of Parliament in both Chambers, has moved with speed out of the blocks, to developed and successfully launch its Strategic Plan for this parliamentary term.

Okandaba, it is also befitting to report that Parliament continued to implement its Strategic Plan, which seeks, amount others, to take Parliament to the people. It was encouraging and gratifying to see Church groups invite parliament to educate its members about the operations of Parliament. It is also pleasing to report that

Parliament was able to export our unique Monarchical Democracy during a briefing to visiting students from the Zambia Defence Services Command and Staff on the occasion of their Course study Tour. Parliament, working with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, was also able to engage in a Self - Assessment against the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures. This was a very inclusive process that involved a great majority of our stakeholders.

Mbangazitha, in conclusion and most importantly, I want to reflect on how you have been relentless in encouraging us to seek, honour, and trust God. Truly, our success as a nation, and individually, is tied to our obedience and total commitment to God, who is the only reliable “*compass*”. You continue to remind us that we are a blessed nation. As we begin this year and Session of Parliament it is incumbent on us to heed to your wise counsel. This process requires a total reprogramming of our mindset, an embrace of the spiritually inspired Patriotism. We need to continuously love and pray for our country because we cannot succeed if our country does not succeed. Indeed *Lwandle Olukhulu*, as you have divinely declared; in 2025 we shall be walking gallantly into the “*Promise Land*”.

*Iphalamende yakho WenaWaphakathi ingitfume kutfula siphosetinkhomo **leti....., Leti.....** Tembube Yemhlaba, **leti.....Tendlovu Yemhlaba.***

Your Majesty, with these few remarks it is now my singular Honour and privilege to invite His Majesty to address this Joint Sitting of Parliament and the Nation to inaugurate the Second (2nd) Session of the Twelfth (12th) Parliament.

Ngekutifoba lokukhulu, Ngwenyama Ndvuna yeMaswati, ngicela Imbube yeMhlaba iphefumulele iPhalamende, iphefumulele Live, nemhla kulesicephu sesibili kuyo iPhalamende yelishumi nakubili.

Bayethe WenaWaphakathi !

Nkhosi Ndlovukazi!