


MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI		
QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM	Doc Ref No.	TC-ADMIN-FRM-033
	Revision Status	Issue 01
OFFICIAL SPEECHES	Revision Date	29.06.2021
	Approved By	Chief Executive Officer




**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MANZINI MAYOR, HER WORSHIP
COUNCILLOR NOZIPHO DLAMINI-GAMEDZE, DURING AN OPEN
DISCUSSION WITH THE CITY’S YOUTH**

DATE: 1st March 2024: **VENUE:** American Corner – Manzini Library **TIME:** 2pm

- **GREETINGS TO ALL PRESENT IN THIS EXCITING GATHERING THIS AFTERNOON.**
- **SPECIAL GREETINGS TO THE ORGANISER OF THE EVENT, MR JOSEPH MBOWA WHO IS THE MANAGING DIRECTOR OF MBOWA HOLDINGS, AS WELL AS ALL PARTNERS PRESENT. [THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ORGANISING THE EVENT]**
- **MY NAME IS MRS NOZIPHO DLAMINI-GAMEDZE AND I STAND BEFORE YOU AS THE CURRENT MAYOR OF THE CITY OF MANZINI.**
- I AM HONOURED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MODERATE THIS OPEN DISCUSSION WHICH FOCUSES ON THE CHALLENGES THAT OUR YOUTH FACE.
- IT IS CRITICAL THAT WE COME TOGETHER AND ADDRESS THESE ISSUES HEAD-ON; FOR THE FUTURE OF MANZINI CITY LIES IN THE HANDS OF OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

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- AS A MUNICIPALITY WE RECOGNISE THAT THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR YOUTH ARE NUMEROUS AND MULTI-FACETED.

- UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS A PRESSING CONCERN, HINDERING THE PROGRESS AND POTENTIAL OF OUR TALENTED YOUTH. VENTURING INTO ENTREPRENEURSHIP HAS ALSO PROVEN TO BE A DIFFICULT ENDEAVOR; WITH NUMEROUS BARRIERS AND OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME.

- ACCESSING HIGHER EDUCATION HAS ALSO PRESENTED CHALLENGES; LIMITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH.

- WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF YOUTH ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE; WHICH NOT ONLY HARM THE WELL-BEING OF OUR YOUTH BUT ALSO IMPEDE THEIR ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO SOCIETY.

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- HOWEVER, I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT, AS A MUNICIPALITY, WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ENGAGING OUR YOUTH TOWARDS FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THESE CHALLENGES.

- AS A MUNICIPALITY WE RECOGNISE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF VIBRANT MANZINI CITY. THROUGH ONGOING CONSULTATIONS AND OTHER YOUTH ACTIVITIES WE AIM TO UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS SO THAT, WORKING TOGETHER WITH RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, WE CAN FIND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO YOUTH-RELATED CHALLENGES IN OUR CITY.

- AS A DEMONSTRATION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO ASSIST YOU TAKE ACTIVE INTEREST AND GET INVOLVED IN THE AFFAIRS OF OUR CITY WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A YOUTH OFFICE WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY. PLEASE VISIT THIS OFFICE AND ENGAGE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE SO THAT YOU CAN BE ASSISTED.

- I AM PLEASED TO MENTION THAT, THROUGH THIS OFFICE, WE HAVE MANAGED TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. THIS PLATFORM AIMS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT

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THAT NURTURES AND SUPPORTS THE ENTREPRENUERIAL SPIRIT OF OUR YOUTH.

- HOWEVER, WE REALISE THAT THIS CANNOT BE ENOUGH. AS A MUNICIPALITY WE ARE EAGER TO HEAR YOUR INPUT, SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ON HOW WE CAN FURTHER ASSIST YOU.

- I, THEREFORE, ENCOURAGE EACH ONE OF YOU TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS OPENLY AND HONESTLY DURING THIS DISCUSSION. YOUR VOICES MATTER AND, TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR VIBRANT MANZINI CITY. WE ENVISION A CITY WHERE THE YOUTH ARE ABLE TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES, SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES AND CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY.

- THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING SO ATTENTIVELY. AT THIS JUNCTURE I WOULD LIKE US TO BEGIN THIS IMPORTANT CONVERSATION. **THE TOPIC IS “HOW SHOULD THE CITY TACKLE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FACING ITS YOUTH?”**