



**WELCOME REMARKS BY MANZINI MAYOR, HONOURABLE COUNCILLOR JABU SHIBA
DURING A STAKEHOLDER BUDGET SUBMISSIONS MEETING HELD AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, 10TH
NOVEMBER 2014, 7AM**

- HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT
 - VALUED COUNCIL STAKEHOLDERS
 - COUNCILLORS
 - MANAGEMENT
 - MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA
 - LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
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- IT IS AN HONOUR TO BE GIVEN THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME YOU TO THIS IMPORTANT GATHERING WHEREIN COUNCIL STAKEHOLDERS FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS WILL BE MAKING AN INPUT INTO COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR (2015/16).
 - THE NECESSITY FOR THIS MEETING IS INSPIRED BY COUNCIL'S NEW VISION OF BEING "A VIBRANT AFRICAN CITY THAT CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES EFFICIENT, RELEVANT AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICES TO ITS STAKEHOLDERS".
 - GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN A PUBLIC SERVICE PROVIDER WOULD SIT IN THE OFFICE AND DRAW ALL THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS WITHOUT CONSULTING HER STAKEHOLDERS. CURRENT GLOBAL TRENDS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LANDSCAPE, TOGETHER WITH CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES, DICTATE THAT THE ONLY WAY ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE THE DESIRED IMPACT IS THROUGH EXTENSIVE STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT.
 - THAT IS WHY ONE OF THE KEY PILLARS OF OUR NEW FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN IS TO DEVELOP MECHANISMS AND STRUCTURES THAT ENCOURAGE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND CONSULTATION WITH ALL OUR STAKEHOLDERS.
 - AS COUNCIL WE ARE COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT MANZINI BECOMES THE FIRST MUNICIPALITY IN SWAZILAND TO ATTAIN FIRST WORLD STATUS. HOWEVER, WE ARE ALSO COGNISANT OF THE FACT THAT WITHOUT YOUR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION WE MAY WALK THE JOURNEY BUT NOT ACHIEVE THE DESIRED IMPACT. WE THEREFORE URGE YOU TO PLAY YOUR ROLE AND WALK WITH US AS WE JOURNEY TO VISION 2022.
 - WE WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT THE INPUT THAT YOU WILL CONTRIBUTE DURING AND OUTSIDE OF THIS MEETING WILL BE GIVEN THE UTMOST PRIORITY AS WE DRAFT THE BUDGET FOR THE NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR.
 - ONCE AGAIN, WE THANK YOU FOR HONOURING THE INVITATION AND BEING PART OF THIS MEETING. ALL YOUR IDEAS AND INPUT ARE VALUABLE TO US. FEEL FREE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH REGARD TO THE POSITIVE CHANGE THAT YOU WISH TO SEE IN OUR BEAUTIFUL AND VIBRANT MANZINI CITY AS WE CONTINUE WITH OUR JOURNEY TO FIRST WORLD STATUS.

- I THANK YOU.