


| 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 |



**REMARKS BY HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR NOZIPHO
DLAMINI-GAMEDZE, DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF
INTERNATIONAL WHITE CANE DAY**

Date: 20th October 2023

Venue: Millennium Park


Time: 10am

- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR
- PRINCIPAL SECRETARY IN THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE
- YOUR EXCELLENCY THE EU AMBASSADOR
- MANZINI REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
- PRESIDENT OF FODSWA
- REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL DISABILITY COUNCIL
- UNFPA REPRESENTATIVE
- REPRESENTATIVE OF CANGO
- PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT PRESENT
- ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS PRESENT TODAY
- MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

GREETINGS TO YOU ALL.


- I WOULD LIKE TO START MY BRIEF REMARKS BY APPRECIATING THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE AND ALL OTHER STAKEHOLDERS FOR CHOOSING THE CITY OF MANZINI AS THE SUITABLE VENUE FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL WHITE CANE DAY.

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- I WOULD LIKE TO ASSURE YOU THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO PARTNER WITH A MUNICIPALITY THAT ACCORDS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO THE WELFARE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.
- ONE OF OUR VALUES AS A MUNICIPALITY IS INCLUSION; AND WE ARE EXCITED THAT THE THEME FOR THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL WHITE CANE DAY PERFECTLY ALIGNS WITH OUR ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE.
- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR; ONE OF THE MUNICIPALITY'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IS TO ENSURE INCLUSIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE CITY. IN LINE WITH THIS OBJECTIVE WE HAVE DEVELOPED A PROGRAMME THAT SEEKS TO PROVIDE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR CITY – AND THAT INCLUDES PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT.
- AS PROOF THAT THE PROGRAMME DOES NOT ONLY EXIST ON PAPER, THE CITY OF MANZINI IS THE FIRST TOWN IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO INSTALL AUDIO TRAFFIC LIGHTS FOR EASE OF MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT AROUND THE CITY.
- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR; IT IS TRUE THAT THIS INTERVENTION IS NOT ENOUGH. THERE IS MORE THAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE. THROUGH OUR ENGAGEMENTS WITH PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIEMENT WE HAVE LEARNT THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR PROVISION OF BRAILLE BLOCKS ON OUR STREETS AND SHOPPING CENTRES. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT, RESOURCES PERMITTING, THIS WILL COME TRUE IN OUR CITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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- AS A MUNICIPALITY WE HAVE ALSO TAKEN NOTE OF AN INCREASING NUMBER OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS WHO ARE ENGAGED IN BEGGING IN OUR STREETS. OFTEN TIMES THIS ACTIVITY INVOLVES JAYWALKING AS THE PEOPLE WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT ALSO COLLECT FROM MOTORISTS AS THEY DRIVE PAST. THIS PRACTICE IS EXTREMELY CONCERNING TO THE MUNICIPALITY BECAUSE IT EXPOSES THEM TO THE RISK OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.
- AS A CARING MUNICIPALITY WE HAVE, ONCE AGAIN, ENGAGED THE STREET COLLECTORS WITH THE VIEW TO SENSITISING THEM ON THE DANGERS OF ENGAGING IN THIS ACTIVITY. ONE OF THE THINGS THEY HAVE TOLD US IS THAT THEY ENGAGE IN THIS PRACTICE AS A MEANS FOR SURVIVAL. THEY HAVE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD TAKE THEM AWAY FROM BEGGING WOULD BE JOB CREATION OR CAPACITATION IN THE FORM OF ENTREPRENUERSHIP.
- I MUST SAY THAT AS A MUNICIPALITY WE REMAIN CONFIDENT THAT, THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS SUCH AS THE ONES PRESENT IN THIS EVENT TODAY, A SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE. I, THEREFORE, INVITE STAKEHOLDERS TO FEEL FREE TO COME TO THE MUNICIPALITY FOR DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE COLLABORATIONS THAT CAN POTENTIALLY RESULT IN A LASTING SOLUTION TO THIS CHALLENGE. NO CHALLENGE IS TOO BIG IF WE WORK TOGETHER TOWARDS A COMMON GOAL.
- PROGRAMME DIRECTOR; I HAVE NO INTENTION TO GIVE A LONG SPEECH. MAY I END MY REMARKS BY URGING CITIZENS OF MANZINI TO CONTINUE TREATING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES WITH RESPECT AND DIGNITY. WHENEVER NECESSARY, PLEASE PROVIDE THEM WITH ASSISTANCE AS THEY WALK AROUND THE CITY.

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- WITH THESE FEW WORDS, MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE VIBRANT CITY OF MANZINI. PLEASE FEEL AT HOME AND MAY THIS EXCITING EVENT BE THE DESIRED SUCCESS.

I THANK YOU.

END
