



**WELCOME REMARKS BY MANZINI MAYOR HIS LORDSHIP CLLR KHETHOKUHLE DLAMINI**  
**DURING THE GRAND FINALE OF THE T55 NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH PROJECT**  
***07<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 – MAVUSO EXHIBITION AND TRADE CENTRE***

- HONOURABLE GUEST OF HONOUR
  - HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR SPORTS, CULTURE & YOUTH AFFAIRS
  - HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR TINKHUNDLA DEVELOPMENT & ADMINISTRATION
  - MANZINI REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
  - HONOURABLE MANZINI COUNCILLORS
  - SPONSORS
  - SWAMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
  - THE FINALISTS
  - MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA
  - LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
- ON BEHALF OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE FOR THE INVITATION TO BE PART OF THIS EXCITING EVENT WHICH MARKS THE SUCCESSFUL CULMINATION OF A LONG AND EXCITING JOURNEY.
- AS COUNCIL WE HAVE BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE T55 NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH – THANKS TO SWAZI TV WHICH KEPT US UP-TO-DATE ABOUT THE PROJECT EVERY FRIDAY.
- THE ARTS AND CULTURE INDUSTRY FORMS PART OF COUNCIL’S KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND WE ARE ALIVE TO THE NEED TO FULLY SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT SECTOR OF OUR ECONOMY. AS A RESULT WE WISH TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY OF SWAZILAND; MORE SO BECAUSE IT LARGELY INVOLVES THE YOUTH WHICH IS THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY AND THE COUNTRY AT LARGE.
- COUNCIL REALLY APPRECIATES THE EFFORT BY SWAMA IN IDENTIFYING AND UNEARTHING SUCH GREAT TALENT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT TODAY’S GRAND FINALE IS NOT THE END OF THE ROAD. AS A RESULT WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE BUSINESS SECTOR TO TAKE THE BATON AND INVEST IN THIS INDUSTRY BY SUPPORTING IT IN WHICHEVER WAY POSSIBLE SO THAT THE AMAZING TALENT THAT WE HAVE SEEN IN THIS COMPETITION CAN GROW STRONGER AND STRONGER.

- IN THE FACE OF UNEMPLOYMENT, TIME HAS COME FOR SWAZI ARTISTS TO REALISE THAT ART IS A SPECIAL PRODUCT OUT OF WHICH THEY CAN EARN AN INCOME – BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. AS COUNCIL WE ENVISION A NUMBER OF SWAZI ARTISTS MAKING WAVES IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA BY 2022.
  
- IN CONCLUSION, WE WISH TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE BEAUTIFUL AND VIBRANT CITY OF MANZINI. WE FURTHER WISH THAT THIS ELEGANT GRAND FINALE BECOMES THE DESIRED SUCCESS.

I THANK YOU