**TALKING POINTS BY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR CNLR WESLEY DLAMINI, FOR THE NATIONAL CAREER EXPO 2025 – MANZINI REGION**

**Date:** 1st  2026 **Venue:** Mavuso Trade Centre **Time:** 09:00 AM

* **HONOURABLE GUESTS**
* **DISTINGUISHED PARTNERS**
* **YOUTH OF ESWATINI**
* **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**
* **MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA**

**I GREET YOU ALL**

* IT IS BOTH AN HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE TO STAND BEFORE YOU TODAY AT THE ESWATINI NATIONAL CAREER EXPO 2025, HOSTED HERE IN THE VIBRANT HEART OF THE MANZINI REGION. I EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OUR GUESTS, EXHIBITORS, EDUCATORS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THIS EVENT
* THIS YEAR’S THEME, “EMPOWERING FUTURES AND ENHANCING DIVERSITY: YOUR CAREER, YOUR CHOICE – BUILDING YOUTH RESILIENCE THROUGH 21ST CENTURY SKILLS AND SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH,” SPEAKS DIRECTLY TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF OUR NATION. IT IS A CALL TO ACTION—A REMINDER THAT THE FUTURE OF ESWATINI LIES IN THE HANDS OF OUR YOUTH, AND IT IS OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE TOOLS TO THRIVE.
* THE CAREER EXPO IS MORE THAN JUST AN EVENT. IT IS A PLATFORM OF OPPORTUNITY. IT IS WHERE DREAMS MEET DIRECTION, WHERE CURIOSITY MEETS CAREER PATHS, AND WHERE POTENTIAL IS TRANSFORMED INTO PURPOSE. SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2021, THIS INITIATIVE HAS GROWN REMARKABLY—FROM 1,200 PARTICIPANTS IN 2022 TO OVER 20,000 IN 2024. THIS IS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE SECTOR, AND CIVIL SOCIETY.
* WE ARE PROUD TO NOTE THAT THIS INITIATIVE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO A TANGIBLE REDUCTION IN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT—FROM 56% TO 48.7% AS OF THE 2023 LABOUR FORCE SURVEY. THIS IS PROGRESS, BUT IT IS ALSO A REMINDER THAT OUR WORK IS FAR FROM OVER.
* TO THE YOUTH GATHERED HERE TODAY: THIS IS YOUR MOMENT. ENGAGE WITH THE EXHIBITORS. ASK QUESTIONS. EXPLORE NEW FIELDS—ESPECIALLY IN STEM, TVET, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP. THE WORLD IS CHANGING RAPIDLY, AND THE CAREERS OF TOMORROW WILL DEMAND CREATIVITY, ADAPTABILITY, AND RESILIENCE.
* LET US CONTINUE TO BUILD A NATION WHERE EVERY YOUNG PERSON HAS ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY, WHERE NO DREAM IS TOO BIG, AND WHERE DIVERSITY IS NOT JUST CELEBRATED BUT EMPOWERED.
* ON BEHALF OF THE MANZINI CITY COUNCIL, I THANK THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY AND ALL PARTNERS FOR THEIR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO YOUTH DEVELOPMENT. TOGETHER, LET US CONTINUE TO BUILD A BRIGHTER, MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE FOR ESWATINI.

**THANK YOU. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL, AND MAY HE BLESS THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI.**