

LAUNCH OF NATIONAL CORRUPTION PERCEPTION SURVEY REMARKS BY HON. MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS, SENATOR EDGAR HILLARY

THE UNDP DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

TODAY, MARKS ANOTHER VERY IMPORTANT DAY FOR THE MINISTRY AND THE COUNTRY AS WE LAUNCH THE SECOND NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION PERCEPTION SURVEY 2017 WHICH COINCIDES WITH THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY THAT IS COMMEMORATED BY ALL MEMBER STATES WHO SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE UNITED CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC). THIS IS THE DAY WHERE GOVERNMENTS AND KEY STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS THE WORLD TAKE STOCK AND REFLECT ON THE MILESTONES AND EXPLORE NEW WAYS OF COMBATING CORRUPTION.

AS WE LAUNCH THE NATIONAL CORRUPTION PERCEPTION SURVEY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND HAS DEEMED IT

APPROPRIATE TO COMMEMORATE THIS DAY AND FURTHER REITERATE HER COMMITMENT OF ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY.

SWAZILAND CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE STRONG POLITICAL WILL AND COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION. HIS MAJESTY KING MSWATI III HAS CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNED AND URGED SWAZIS TO REFRAIN FROM CORRUPT PRACTICES FOR THE COUNTRY TO ATTAIN SUSTAINED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT RESPONDED TO THE CALL BY MAKING CORRUPTION A STAND-ALONE KEY PILLAR IN THE 2013-2018 GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES WERE ALSO PROVIDED TOWARDS COMBATING THE SCOURGE.

IN 2017, WHEN THE HEAD OF STATE OPENED THE 4TH SESSION OF THE 10TH PARLIAMENT, HE PRONOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIALISED COMMERCIAL COURT THAT IS AIMED AT FIGHTING COMMERCIAL CRIMES AND CORRUPTION. THIS SURVEY IS ANOTHER WAY THAT DEMONSTRATES THE GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND'S COMMITMENT TO THE COURSE OF COUNTERING THE UNDESIRABLE SPREAD OF CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY, BY GIVING THE NATION AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ITS PERCEPTION ON CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY, AND GET ITS BUY-IN ON INITIATIVES AND STRATEGIES AIMED AT ELIMINATING THIS SCOURGE, GOING FORWARD.

AS WE RELEASE THESE MAJOR FINDINGS FROM THE OVERALL PERCEPTION SURVEY REPORT, IT IS NECESSARY TO REITERATE HIS MAJESTY'S COMMITMENT AND CALL FOR A MULTI-SECTOR APPROACH TO FIGHTING CORRUPTION. SWAZIS HAVE SPOKEN IN HARMONY WITH HIS MAJESTY AS THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO FIGHT CORRUPTION. THEREFORE, THE NATION IS URGED TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THE ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION (ACC) AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT INSTITUTIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION. THESE RESULTS WILL ALSO ASSIST HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE STRENGTHENING EFFORTS TO FIGHT THIS SCOURGE.

I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ACC FOR THE EFFORT THEY PUT IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR SPEARHEADING THIS SURVEY; AND ALSO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP), FOR IMMENSELY CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNDING OF THIS SURVEY; THE CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE (CSO) FOR PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ENSURING ADHERENCE TO QUALITY STANDARDS; AND THE CONSULTANCY FIRM THREE SIXTY DEGREES BUSINESS SOLUTIONS (360 DBS) FOR SUCCESSFULLY UNDERTAKING THIS MAMMOTH TASK AMID THE CHALLENGES EXPERIENCED; THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THEIR INVALUABLE INPUT; AND FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY THIS PROJECT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE OF SWAZILAND (HEREIN REFERRED TO AS RESPONDENTS) WHO SPARED THEIR VALUABLE TIME TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT. THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR RESPONSES IS LAUDED.

THEREFORE, I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO RELEASE THE RESULTS OF THE 2017 NATIONAL CORRUPTION PERCEPTION SURVEY. I ALSO URGE ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER THE NATIONAL RESULTS AND ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND BY CRAFTING AND IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIES TO PREVENT CORRUPTION WITHIN THEIR SECTORS. THE IMPACT WILL BE THE REALISATION OF THE COUNTRY'S VISION 2022.

AS WE COMMEMORATE THIS DAY, MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO LAUNCH THE ACC'S FIRST REGIONAL OFFICES IN MANZINI WHICH ARE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT DECENTRALISATION POLICY. WE ARE HAPPY AS A MINISTRY TO CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE BECAUSE IT BRINGS ACC CLOSER TO ITS CLIENTELE.

LASTLY, I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO LAUNCH THE NEW AND REVAMPED ACC WEBSITE. THE WEBSITE WILL BE A ONE STOP SHOP FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE ON TRENDS AND TYPOLOGIES AND UP TO

DATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION IN THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND. A KEY FEATURE OF THIS WEBSITE IS THAT IT ALLOWS THOSE WISHING TO REPORT CORRUPTION TO DO IT ONLINE IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOMES OR OFFICES. I FURTHER URGE THE NATION TO MAKE USE OF THESE SERVICES SO THAT SWAZILAND ACHIEVES A ZERO TOLERANCE FOR CORRUPTION.

IN EMBRACING THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY THEME, 'UNITED AGAINST CORRUPTION' THE GOVERNMENT OF SWAZILAND JOINS THE WORLD IN BEING UNITED AGAINST CORRUPTION FOR DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND SECURITY.

I THANK YOU.