Indian Commission, DPM's Office plant fruit trees at School for the Deaf

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THE Indian Commission has joined hands with the deputy prime minister's officer in a symbolic planting of fruit trees at Matsetsa High School for Deaf yesterday.

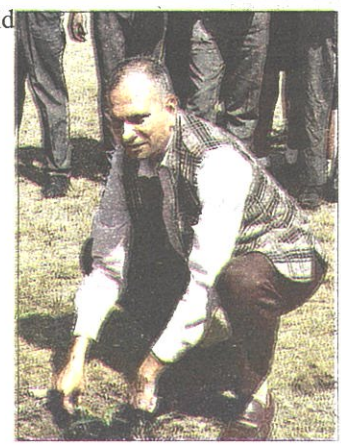
High Commissioner Ram Prasad led his delegation in the exercise, which marks the Indian government's commitment to contributing in the education sector.

The high commissioner said the Indian government donated a variety of fruit trees to the school so that it could have its own source of fruits for the pupils at the school.

The entire enrolment of the school resides at the boarding facility and depends on food provided by the school.

Prasad said the planting of fruit trees would also help educate the pupils about the importance of growing one's own food.

The high commissioner said they were committed into joining hands with Eswatini government in the development of other sectors. She also presented a donation of books to the school.



Indian High Commissioner Ram Prasad planting a tree at the School for the Deaf.

Meanwhile, Under Secretary in the DPM's Office Makhosi Simelane who represented acting Deputy Prime Minister Jane Mkhonta-Simelane, thanked the Indian Commission for the kind gesture, saying it would go a long way in developing self-sufficiency in the school.

Simelane highlighted the importance of planting trees in general, saying it has positive benefits such as improving the environment, fostering the health and well-being of all inhabitants, creating a sustainable habitat for wildlife, strengthening community spirit and promoting economic opportunities through providing much needed shade in the era of climate change.

He stated that tree planting was directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goal-15, which was life on land.

The said SDG focuses on protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial eco systems.

"Trees play a critical role in the eco system by giving off the oxygen that we breath. They also play an important role in curbing water run off, thus reducing soil erosion which washes away critical nutrients from the soil," he said.

The under secretary also paid tribute to the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi who has pioneered the noble initiative for tree-planting.

He said government appreciated the Indian prime minister's leading role in committing to environmental stewardship and green mobility.

Simelane said government remained committed to the noble course of tree planting and the encouragement of planting indigenous trees that have existed since time immemorial.



High Commissioner Prasad and DPM's Office Under Secretary Makhosi Simelane with the schools administration.