INDIA, ESWATINI MARK 50 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES

By Musa Simelane

India and Eswatini have reaffirmed their enduring friendship and commitment to cooperation as they celebrated 50 years of diplomatic relations.

This is a milestone that marks half a century of mutual support and shared aspirations. The highlight of this transpired yesterday when India's Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles, Pabitra Margherita paid a courtesy visit to Prime Minister Russell Mmiso Dlamini at the Cabinet Offices.

The two leaders exchanged pleasantries and held discussions centred on strengthening ties and unlocking new opportunities for collaboration in multiple sectors. Dlamini described the visit as a significant step in reinforcing bilateral relations.

"This visit will not only strengthen ties between our two countries, but will also open new avenues for development. Our collaboration spans across various sectors and we look forward to building even stronger partnerships," said Dlamini. Minister Margherita also expressed heartfelt appreciation for the warm reception his delegation received, particularly during the meeting with His Majesty King Mswati III on Thursday.



Minister for External Affairs and Textiles, Pabitra Margherita meeting Prime Minister Russell Dlamini at Cabinet Office.

"On behalf of the people and government of India, I express my deepest gratitude. "The warmth and hospitality can even be felt from the media coverage. Our commitment to each other will further strengthen our relations as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties," he said.

Emphasised

The minister emphasised that both countries have continued to enhance cooperation in key areas, noting that "engagement in sectors such as agriculture, trade, commerce and beyond will not only continue, but will expand. We are working hand in hand for the betterment of both our nations."

India was among the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Eswatini in 1974, shortly after the country gained independence. Over the years, the relationship has grown through development cooperation, educational exchange programmes, trade and health initiatives.

Eswatini has benefited from India's Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, which has provided scholarships and training to hundreds of Emaswati professionals in fields such as engineering, health and governance.

India has also supported Eswatini through technology transfer and capacity-building programmes while trade in textiles, pharmaceuticals and agricultural products continues to rise.

As the two nations mark this golden jubilee of diplomatic relations, both governments pledged to broaden cooperation in emerging sectors, including renewable energy, digital technology, textiles and capacity building.