



His Majesty King Mswati III's representative Prince Sicalo with the India High Commissioner with learners from Enjabulweni High School after their cultural performance.

Visa-free travel for diplomatic, service passport holders

BY NOKUPHILA HAJI
Mbabane

LOCALS with diplomatic, official and service passports are already enjoying visa-free travel to India.

This was revealed by High Commissioner of India to Eswatini Ram Prasad during the 75th India Republic Day celebration held at the United Nations House on Sunday.

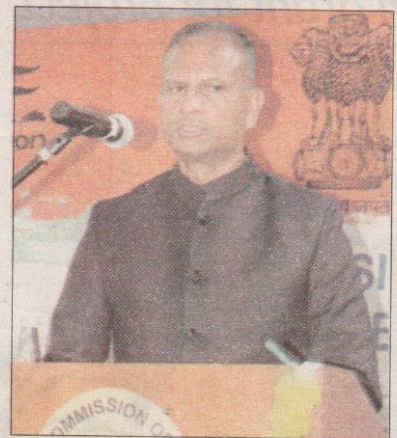
Prasad stated that his country had also extended the facility of e-visa to Eswatini holding regular passports. He said they hoped that Eswatini, on the principle of reciprocity, would extend the same facility to Indian tourists and businesspeople to enable them to visit the country.

"The more than 2 000 Indian diaspora community is a major contributor to the economy and promotes people-to-people contacts with the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"I wish to thank His Majesty for taking care of the welfare of our nationals," he said. His Majesty King Mswati III, who was represented by Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence Prince Sicalo during the event, said these exchange programmes had been made easy and hustle-free due to the visa-free travel ingenuity for diplomatic and service passport holders.

"We also welcome the e-visa for our regular passport holders. We need to reciprocate this initiative to also enable the ease of travel for Indian tourists and business people who will be coming to our shores," he said.

...Initiative extended to Eswatini holding regular passports



Prince Sicalo making a toast during the India Republic Day celebration. RIGHT - Indian High Commissioner Ram Prasad delivering his remarks. (Pics: Siphosethu Dlamini)



Abilashini Negashwaraj gave a good performance and received a prize for her dance.