Top Eswatini learner selected for global space programme

BY MNELISI DLAMINI

MBABANE - Eswatini's top-performing student, Tiyandza Melokuhle Ndlovu, will represent the kingdom at the prestigious Mission ShakthiSAT programme in New Delhi, India, this August.

Her remarkable selection follows an outstanding performance in the international, all-girls initiative, which unites young women from across 108 Commonwealth nations to explore satellite engineering and lunar space science.



Tiyandza Ndlovu, a liSwati who will represent the country at ShakthiSAT programme in New Delhi, India. (Ministry of ICT Facebook page)

Thousands of participants took part in the preliminary stages, but Tiyandza distinguished herself through her technical aptitude, academic dedication and passion for space exploration.

The initiative aims to reach 12 000 young women worldwide, offering them direct exposure to real-world space technologies. Hosted in New Delhi from August 23 - 31, 2026, Phase II of the programme brings the top representatives together for intensive, hands-on training focused on satellite systems and payload development destined for lunar orbit. The Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, through the Department of Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI), formally congratulated Tiyandza, commending her role as a beacon for the nation's youth. In an official statement, the Ministry highlighted the broader significance of her success. It stated that Tiyandza's achievement reflects the country's commitment to empowering girls in STEM and advancing Eswatini's vision for innovation, space science, and the digital economy. "We wish her every success as she proudly flies the Eswatini flag on the global stage," the statement reads. Tiyandza's success arrives at a critical juncture for female representation in high-tech disciplines. Globally, women continue to be underrepresented in the space and aerospace sectors, a structural gap Eswatini is actively seeking to address through targeted digital skills initiatives and national science policies. During her time in India, Tiyandza will work alongside top-performing international peers to design spacecraft systems under the guidance of world-leading space scientists. Eswatini continues to build momentum towards a knowledge-based digital economy, Tiyandza's journey stands as a powerful testament to what the country's young minds can accomplish on the world stage.