

PRESS RELEASE

High Commission of India, Mbabane Celebrates ITEC Day 2024

The High Commission of India, Mbabane, celebrated ITEC Day 2024 on 14 November, 2024 to commemorate the significant contributions of the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) program to the development of Eswatini.

2. The event was attended by Chief Guest Hon'ble Minister for Public Service & Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, H.E.Mr.Mabulala Maseko, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, H.E.Mr.Sizwe Newman Ntshangase, Acting Principal Secretary, Ministry of Education, H.E.Ms.Naniki Mnisi, Commissioner General of the HMCS H.E.Lamakhosini Phindile Dlamini, National Commissioner of REPS, H.E.Mr.Manoma Vusie Masongo, Representatives from the UEDF their Excellencies Lt.Gen.Mfanawenkhosi Khumalo and Major Gen.Michael Ranft and ITEC and ICCR scholarships alumni.

3. Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner of India H.E.Mr.N.Ram Prasad said that the event was part of India's engagement with Africa in general and the Kingdom of Eswatini in particular. The guiding principles of this were solidarity, mutual respect and the spirit of sharing. This programme was based on voluntary cooperation, free from conditionalities and national ownership aligned with priorities of Kingdom of Eswatini. ITEC was a demand-driven and response oriented programme with the objective of sharing knowledge and skills with fellow developing countries. The objective was to merge available resources with skills to achieve prosperity and was an excellent example of fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among nations. In this, India has been a proud partner of Eswatini's developmental journey. More than 370 Emaswati government officials have benefitted from the ITEC programme so far. Prominent institutions whose officers have benefitted from the programme were the UEDF, HMCS, REPS besides various Government departments. In the current training year, in addition to the annual allocation of 50 civilian ITEC training slots, Government of India has also allocated 15 defence training slots for the Kingdom of Eswatini.

4. The ITEC program has been instrumental in capacity building in Eswatini, providing opportunities for Emaswati to acquire valuable skills and knowledge in various fields, including:

- Information Technology
- Agriculture
- Healthcare
- Engineering
- Management

5. Chief Guest on the occasion Hon'ble Minister for Public Service & Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, H.E.Mr.Mabulala Maseko in his remarks said that the ITEC program has been a beacon of hope for the Kingdom of Eswatini, providing its citizens with unparalleled opportunities for capacity building and skill enhancement. The scholarships had enabled Eswatini professionals to acquire cutting-edge knowledge and expertise in a wide range of fields, from information technology to agriculture, healthcare to

engineering. The impact of these scholarships extends far beyond individual beneficiaries. By empowering the Kingdom's workforce, it was strengthening the very foundations of Eswatini. The skills and knowledge gained by Eswatini scholars were being applied to address critical challenges and drive sustainable development in Eswatini. He said that we are particularly grateful for the flexibility and responsiveness of the ITEC program, which has allowed the Kingdom to tailor its training needs to specific priorities. The program's emphasis on practical learning and hands-on experience has ensured that the scholars return home well-equipped to make a tangible difference. He said that as we looked to the future, we are confident that the ITEC program will continue to be a catalyst for progress in Eswatini. The Kingdom was committed to maximizing the benefits of this partnership and working closely with the Government of India to identify new areas of cooperation.

6. The High Commission of India remains committed to strengthening the India-Eswatini partnership and expanding the scope of the ITEC program to meet the evolving needs of Eswatini.

Mbabane

14 November 2024