Speech of Mr. N. Ram Prasad, High Commissioner of India for ITEC Day

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Good evening – Sanibonani

Respected 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, Excellencies, friends from the media, distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen, all protocols observed.

It is my privilege and honour to welcome you all for today's 59th ITEC Day celebrations. Today's event is part of India's engagement with Africa in general and the Kingdom of Eswatini in particular. The guiding principles of this are Solidarity, mutual respect and the spirit of sharing. This programme is based on voluntary cooperation, free from conditionalities and national ownership aligned with priorities of our partner country. Thus, ITEC is a demand-driven and response oriented programme with the objective of sharing knowledge and skills with fellow developing countries. The objective is to merge available resources with skills to achieve prosperity and is 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 are 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.

There are three important components under ITEC i.e., (i) Training (civilian and defence) in India of nominees from ITEC partner countries; (ii) Deputation of Indian experts abroad; and (iii) Study Tours. While we have been making steady progress under the Training component for the last four years, we hope that the potential available under the component of deputation of ITEC experts in which Indian experts are deputed to friendly countries at their request to assist in developmental activities is also fully realised.

The component of Study Tours is another important aspect, which needs lot of planning and initiative from both sides. Study tours to India are undertaken at the specific request of ITEC partner countries. Specific areas of interest are identified and two to three weeks program is arranged during which the delegates are taken to important institutions, training centres, and places of interest in different parts of India.

Dear Alumni and associated institutions, today is your day and your celebration and I am happy to note your predominant presence and testimonials in today's event.

I thank you all for attending the ITEC Day celebrations of the High Commission of India. We look forward to more and more success stories of Emaswati in exploiting the scores of opportunities available under the ITEC programme for the personal as well as the national benefit of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Siabonga gakhulu

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