

Eswatini artists receive international opportunities

STORIES BY SENTEKO MTHIMKHULU

MBABANE - Eswatini artists continue gaining global recognition as government and international partners strengthen cultural exchange opportunities through strategic collaborations and sponsorships.

The Ministry of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs officially bid farewell to fine artists Honest Mhlanga and Daniel Dlamini ahead of their sponsored cultural exchange trip to India during a press conference held at the ministry's office in Mbabane yesterday.

Speaking during the event, Minister for Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Bongani Nzima applauded the Government of India for fully sponsoring the programme, describing it as another milestone for Eswatini's growing creative industry.

Nzima said opportunities of this nature are important in exposing local creatives to global platforms while showcasing Eswatini's artistic talent internationally. He also encouraged artists representing the country abroad to formally engage the ministry before departure in order to receive the national flag and official support. "The flag is not merely a symbol; it represents our pride, identity and sovereignty as a nation," said Nzima.



(L-R) India High Comissioner N Ram Prasad making his remarks during the briefing. Minister of Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs Bongani Nzima. Honest Mhlanga, one of the recipients of the cultural exchange sponsorship. *(Pic: Senteko Mthimkhulu)*

Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini, N Ram Prasad, explained that Mhlanga had been selected to participate in an artistic programme in India, where he would create sketches inspired by Indian spaces through an African perspective. Prasad said the artworks would later form part of an exhibition expected to be viewed by world leaders and Indian dignitaries before eventually returning to Eswatini for public display.

"These sketches will subsequently be displayed in an exhibition which will be viewed by world leaders and Indian leaders," said Prasad. The High commissioner further stated that the exhibition would also be publicised through social media platforms to increase international visibility for the participating artists. Mhlanga feparted yesterday meanwhile, a second artist is still finalising travel documentation, with government expressing hope that all arrangements will soon be concluded successfully.