Liswati cadet to make history at India Military Academy

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ONE of two local female officer cadets currently training in India will make history as part of the first group of foreign women expected to graduate from the Indian Military Academy (IMA), the Umbutfo Eswatini Defence Force (UEDF) has confirmed.

The landmark intake comprises of six women from four countries. Uganda and Seychelles are each represented by two cadets, while Eswatini and Bhutan have one cadet each.

Upon completing the training programme, the cadets will be commissioned into their respective national defence forces, with Eswatini's cadet joining the UEDF.

Reacting to the milestone, UEDF Public Affairs Officer Major Sandile Gwebu said the defence force was proud of all its servicemen and women who successfully completed officer cadet training, regardless of where they train or their gender.

"Cadet training is not a training that anyone can achieve graduation from, so that makes the UEDF proud of all its members who have graduated, irrespective of where they are graduating from and their gender," said Gwebu.



Cadets at the Indian Military Academy. *(Courtesy of the Indian Times)*

He said the programme, which lasts for no less than 12 months, tests participants' physical, mental, emotional and intellectual endurance.

"The UEDF, as already stated, is proud of all its servicemen and women who have graduated in various courses around the globe," he said.

Gwebu also described the training partnership between Eswatini and India as an important pillar of the two countries' diplomatic relations.

"The UEDF is proud and grateful for the cooperation between the institution and the Indian military, which is of great importance in strengthening diplomatic relations between the countries and sharing skills and knowledge," Gwebu stated.

He, however, clarified that while the achievement is historic for the Indian Military Academy, it is not the first time female members of the UEDF have undergone military training in India.

"Currently, we have two female cadets graduating on different dates and they are not the last to be sent out, as there are others who are in line for such training," he said. According to reports from Indian Times, the graduation ceremony is scheduled for June, 2027 and will mark the first time the Indian Military Academy commissions women officers from foreign countries.