

All Protocols Observed

Sanibonani Bugenene / Namaste

Thank you programme director

I am honoured to be here today.

When I was approached by RISE for support to its project on home grown Nklongo communal gardens I had wondered for a moment how to respond as the High Commission of India did not have a budget for such support.

But as the project was to empower rural women to become self sufficient in the times of the present pandemic, the thought kept going round my head and then I came up with the idea of atleast planting a ' seed ' which will grow into a tree and help the women.

That seed was to fund the construction of a tool shed for the vegetable gardens project which I am told almost became the first sponsorship for the commencement of the Project. High Commission of India has joined this project to commemorate 150 years of the Great Soul Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our Nation.

Gandhi ji, as he is fondly called by us, always encouraged and propagated womens empowerment and rural development. This project of NDMA aims for both hence it is a worthy cause to be associated with.

In my short time here in the Kingdom I have seen that Eswatini is very fertile and you can grow almost anything here as it also has a varied climatic conditions from North to South and East to West of the country.

Developing such community vegetable gardens would help the Kingdom in becoming self sufficient when it comes to fresh produce rather than spend precious Emalangeneni on importing vegetables and greens, the basic necessity of any community.

I conclude by extending my warm greetings and best wishes to all stakeholders and thank all concerned for the opportunity given to me.

Siyabonga gahkuhlu begunene. Thank you.

20 Nov 2020



**HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
MBABANE, ESWATINI**

www.hcimbabane.gov.in