

**MAYOR'S REMARKS ON GOLF DAY HELD ON THE 25th MAY 2014
AT THE MBABANE GOLF CLUB**

Representatives from our sister cities;

- Matola Municipality – Mozambique
- Nkomazi Municipality – South Africa and
- Mbombela Municipality – South Africa

Corporates and Golfing Teams

Honourable Councillors

Municipal Council of Mbabane Management

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good afternoon.

I would firstly like to extend my appreciation on the astounding support that we received from the corporates that participated in the Golf Day, without which this day would not have been possible. A very deep heartfelt thank you to all of you. Let me also assure you that your participation in this event will ensure that a worthy charitable cause within the City is assisted. Too often urban poverty and vulnerable groups are overlooked by development initiatives, as it is believed that those that live in towns and cities are able, either through working or businesses. But the opposite rings true, the informal settlements have some cases of vulnerable sector including child headed households and the very elderly, who have no-one to fend for them. The proceeds collected here, will be used to identify a suitable cause, where it will make a difference.

Today, it being a Sunday and a day to enjoy a round of golf, is not really for long speeches, but I would be making a grave error if I did not take this opportunity availed to me, of having the corporate world, from supplier/services to insurance and the banking sectors to not share a bit on the Municipal Council's aspirations for this City. Which requires your involvement at different levels to ensure that the City is vibrant, developed and attracts investors in all sectors.

The Municipal Council developed an Integrated Development Plan through a consultative process, which hopefully many of you, if not all, had the opportunity to participate in. This Plan covers 6 development focus areas {Thrusts} that we would as a Council intend to implement over a 5 year term. Part of the Plan requires that Council seek and partner with the business community, and to this end, an officer to drive this program was hired and we are working closely with the business sector. I would like to appeal to you all, to get closer to this program if your organization is currently not involved to get better insight on where you may play a role to contribute to the development of the City, as a Capital, it has the challenge of not only setting the pace in investment but is the face of Swaziland. With your contribution this aspiration would be realized.

Also the Municipal Council, has over the years, developed sister city relations with cities neighbouring the country, such Matola, Mbombela and Nkomazi, where we would like to see businesses in all our cities also collaborating through Public Private Partnerships and bilateral, to develop our cities further. Later in the year, the Municipal Council of Mbabane will be hosting a forum to allow further dialogue and exploration on how this network can be strengthened. I would like to extend an invitation to you all to be part of this event, as without your participation on not only ideas but possible business ventures, it will not bear fruit. Please bother the officials in the offices of the Municipal Council on how and when this will be, but I also trust that an invitation will be sent to each of you.

The Council, would really like to see an increase in participation on Council matters by residents and businesses, as currently it seems to be only coming through in the form of rates! Rate paying is appreciated but really request contribution of ideas, suggestions and participation in the business forum, this will ensure that the ownership of programs and projects is spread but also that they are sustainable and are what businesses and residents want. Please assist in ensuring that Mbabane City is the preferred destination by investors and residents, we have also seen in the media recently that our

commercial and residential rates are the lowest in the country! Irrefutable proof that corporates currently not thinking of investing and growing their businesses in Mbabane are losing out on a good deal!

The Council is also on a quest to develop a Tourism & Marketing Strategy of the City, this too will require assistance from the corporate sector as it will have aspects that need to be driven by business, these include WIFI installation, a business centre and the identification and marketing of many aspects of the City, from accommodation to food outlets and the lifestyle. May I implore the Tourism Authority to collaborate closely with the Municipal Council.

Lastly, may I congratulate all the players, you are all winners, as your participation will assist bring a change where it is most needed. I would like to appreciate all the corporates that put in teams, the sister Cities that came through to support us and further thank the team that organized the event.

I thank you all.