SPEECH BY THE HON. MINISTER FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY AT THE OCCASION OF THE KINGDOM SWAZILAND JOINING THE SANITATION AND WATER FOR ALL (SWA) PARTNERSHIP AND LAUNCH OF THE SWA INITIATIVE.

VENUE:
HLUTHI TOWN (MAGISTRATE OPEN GROUND)

DATE:
21ST AUGUST 2017.
GREETINGS,
It is a great honour for me to be present here in this important occasion when the Kingdom of Swaziland reiterates its commitment on issues of access to Sanitation and Water for All. Great advocacy on these issues are celebrated under the Sanitation and Water for All partnership (SWA); a global multistakeholder partnership which catalyzes political leadership
and improve accountability to achieve a sustainable vision of sanitation, water and hygiene for all.

Initiated in 2008; the Sanitation and Water for All provides a transparent, accountable and results-oriented framework for action based on a common vision, values and principles. SWA has over 100 partners, who work together to coordinate high-level action, empower or strengthen governments (from developing countries) to lead and coordinate the sector; improve accountability and use scarce resources more effectively.

Membership under SWA is pooled from 170 governments, private sector and civil society organizations, external support agencies, research and learning institutions. It gives me great pleasure to announce that in July 2017, the Kingdom of Swaziland was accepted as a member of this important partnership to advance initiatives on issues of Sanitation, Water and Hygiene in Swaziland.
The country feels greatly honoured to be a member of this rich and diverse institution with multiple gains for the benefit of the people of Swaziland.

To-date we know that almost 2.5 billion people are without adequate sanitation facilities and about 663 million people lack access to an improved source of drinking water. By being a member of this institution the country will gain expertise on how to tackle local challenges on issues of water, sanitation and hygiene. This will help the country to achieve the National Development Goal of 100% access to potable water by the year 2022.

**LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Today we are gathered in this occasion to demonstrate the effective collaboration amongst local partners in the Swaziland’s Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene sector. In particular, this important occasion is a clear demonstration of a successful collaboration that exists between my Ministry; The Ministry of Health and UNICEF on issues of water, sanitation and Hygiene. Our collaboration has always ensured that interventions on issues of clean water are coupled with sanitation facilities as it
has been noted that investment in water without adequate sanitation does not yield the intended benefits. I wish this partnership continues to exist and I invite other partners to join in order to enhance the benefits to all Swazis.

INITIATIVES UNDER WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

SWA hosts high-level dialogue with Ministers responsible for water and sanitation and Ministers of finance. These high-level dialogues provide a platform at the highest level for water and sanitation to tackle barriers to increasing financing to meet national and international goals. In the SDG era, SWA is well-placed to strengthen accountability for progress towards the water, sanitation and hygiene-related targets of the SDG, Goal 6.

ROLE OF OTHER PARTNERS UNDER WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

My Ministry sincerely appreciates the significant role that UNICEF played in facilitating the participation of the Kingdom of Swaziland at the Sanitation and Water for All High Level Meeting held in July 2017 in Washington DC. This event was a great success and placed Swaziland on the global map and further led
to the official registration of Swaziland into the Global SWA partnership.

The participation of Ministers responsible for water and sanitation entailed adoption and announcement of the Political Declaration in support of the increase in national budget allocations to sanitation and drinking-water in order to meet national and international targets such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to provide services to the unserved as well as to maintain existing services.

**IMPORTANCE OF EVENT**

We are here today to demonstrate the country’s WASH sub sector commitments to the SWA political commitment together with the key partners in Water Sanitation and Hygiene. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Hluthi town and the Hluthi communities for being selected for the announcement of Swaziland’s joining of this global initiative and the launch of the potable water supply and sanitation project. As you are aware, that Hluthi is a small town with the majority of the population in the town and the neighboring communities still relying on unprotected springs. I am also reliably informed that ground
water sources are not easily available within the Hluthi community. I hereby commit that my Ministry will ensure the availability of potable water to support the community in this area. As we are gathered in this arena our teams are busy clearing a site where a community borehole will be drilled. This source will avail water to be pumped to an elevated reservoir for reticulation to the community.

The project will cost about E 400,000 and the Ministry working in collaboration with other Partners are mobilizing funds to ensure that this water project is completed and the water is available to the community by the year 2018.

**VOTE OF THANKS**

I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to UNICEF and the Ministry of Health who have contributed immensely to the success of this project.

My sincere gratitude also goes to the targeted communities who have demonstrated commitment to this important project. May I further inform the beneficiaries that the Ministry uses the
community based management model, therefore your full participation and ownership will ensure sustainability of the project. May I also urge the project beneficiaries to continue contributing toward the operations and maintenance fund to ensure the sustainability of the water supply scheme.

Having said this, I would like to strongly urge the beneficiaries to fully participate during the construction of the water supply system in order to acquire skills to manage the water supply scheme effectively.

With these few remarks it is now my pleasure to declare that The Kingdom of Swaziland is today, announcing it’s membership to the SWA with the launch of the Hluthi potable water supply and sanitation project.

I THANK YOU AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.