



Ministers Mduzuzi Matsebula and Bongani Nzima were also present.



Prince Sicalo toasting with the high commissioner who is joined by his wife and the Deputy Prime Minister Thuli Dladla.

TRADE MORE WITH INDIA - KING

BY SIMON SHABANGU
Mbabane

HIS Majesty King Mswati III has urged Eswatini to take advantage of the VISA waiver agreement between Eswatini and India to do more trade with the Asian country.

His Majesty was speaking during the 75th India Day celebration at the United Nations Building on Friday night. His Majesty was represented by Prince Sicalo, who is also the Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Defence.

His Majesty said the visa-free travel for diplomatic and service passport holders of Eswatini, which have been made under the India-Eswatini



Prince Sicalo delivering His Majesty's speech during the 75th India Day celebration at the UN Building on Friday night. (Pics: Simon Shabangu)

visa waiver agreement was good news for local business people.

"This healthy mutual agreements

will improve movement and trade between our two countries. We should see more of our peoples visiting to

improve our tourism, trade, skills and knowledge without having to deal with the tedious formalities of visa requirements," he said.

The king applauded the Indian High Commission for the role they play in ensuring that even the other passport holders who require visas for entry, get it with ease.

He said this would make travelling between the two countries easy. His Majesty also applauded India's leadership role in the G20, adding that they have shown a clear vision to empower others and give everyone equal opportunities and positive exposure.

His Majesty thanked government for prioritising the different capital projects being implemented in Eswatini in various sectors, including but not

limited to agriculture, ICT, finance and health.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini Ram Prasad thanked His Majesty and the people of Eswatini for the warm hospitality they have always accorded the people of India for many years.

Members

He said many members of the Indian diaspora had found home in Eswatini due to the kindness of Eswatini.

"The more than 2 000 India diaspora community is a major contributor to the economy and promotes people to people contacts with the Kingdom of Eswatini.

"I wish to thank His Majesty for taking care of the welfare of our nationals," he said.

The high commissioner also highlighted the draft Framework Agreement for the joining International Solar Alliance (ISA), which was signed by the Kingdom of Eswatini in early 2021.

He said his hope was that the Parliament of Eswatini would ratify same at the earliest, further noting that this would enable the kingdom to make major strides towards energy security.



Minister Dr Tambo Gina, DPM Thuli Dladla, Turkish Honorary Consul Ismail Olmez and the high commissioner's wife after the event.



Prince Sicalo leading the gathering in a toast.



A section of the members of the diaspora networking.