

PM RECEIVES E3m MEDICAL

By Khetswe Khumalo

Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini yesterday received E3 million worth of medical supplies from one of the country's diplomatic allies, India.

Eswatini has joined 89 other countries in receiving medical relief from India during this era of the coronavirus pandemic.

Receiving the donation from High Commissioner of India to Eswatini Radha Venkataraman at the Central Medical Stores in Matsapha, the Prime Minister extended his gratitude on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III. Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and the entire nation of Eswatini for the thoughtful gesture stating that it will greatly contribute towards the country's COVID 19 response.

"The donation is most welcome, coming at a time when the Kingdom is experiencing an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases. Currently we have recorded 706 cases, eight



Prime Minister Ambrose Mandvulo Dlamini captured with the Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini Radha Venkataraman. (Pics: Simon Shabangu.)

fatalities and 347 recoveries as of yesterday, morning," said the PM.

Dlamini noted government's strides in slowing down the infection rate but however stated that there have been gaps in the supply of essential

medicines due to supply chain challenges caused by a combination of international lock down effects and embargo on supplies in some countries.

"This donation received today will

therefore greatly contribute to our COVID-19 case management.

Our case management teams are working very hard to ensure that all COVID-19 patients are well cared for by teams that have been strengthened through the recruitment of additional health personnel," said Dlamini.

Furthermore, the PM declared that protocols have been developed and are continuously being updated for the clinical management of COVID-19 cases.

He added that they have also strengthened infection, prevention and control measures to reduce recovery time and also protect health workers from being infected.

"Your Excellencies, the essential medicines we are receiving today (yesterday) include antibiotics and anaesthetics that were already in short supply in the country.

These medicines are part of our COVID-19 case management protocols," he said.

Dlamini further congratulated India for being a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council

for the year 2021 to 2022.

"This is well deserved.

Indeed, Eswatini has found a true friend in India and we look forward to continuing fruitful relations in the future.

This act of goodwill will not be forgotten by Emaswati and all others that have been supported by the people of India," said the PM.

As a way of keeping strong bonds of friendship, the High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom Venkataraman expressed her country's delight at having readily come to the assistance of many African countries including Eswatini who also have been affected by COVID-19.

"India has dispersed essential medicines as per the list provided by the government of Eswatini, weighing more than 6 000 kilogrammes as humanitarian assistance," said Venkataraman.

Venkataraman revealed that they will continue to support the country in achieving its development goals and tightening the friendly relations between the countries.

PM, Ministers tour Central Medical Stores

Central Medical Stores Assistant Director Themba Motsa together with staffers gave the delegation led by the Prime Minister and Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini a tour of the highly secured warehouse.

Also present at the tour was Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi, Minister of Labour Makhosi Vilakati, Minister for Sports Culture and Youth Affairs Harris Bulunga, Health Principal Secretary Simon Zwane, Manzini Regional Administrator Prince Gija and members of the media.

The delegation got to see where all the COVID-19 medical supplies togeth-

er with all other medicines that go into servicing 400 facilities in the country are being stored.

According to Motsa the warehouse is being guarded by Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, a security company and police officers just to secure the medicines within the warehouse.

"The security has however been added with a Trans IT system which is an order tracking system used with an Android phone that is given to the driver. The driver is checked if he has delivered.

When the driver gets to each facility, he takes a picture of the facility,

the medicines he is delivering and the signed invoice upon delivery and upload.

"This is done so that we see immediately that he has delivered at whatever facility and at what time," said Motsa.

Motsa explained that the tracking system had to be added to ensure that the deliveries are made.

"In addition to that all the vehicles delivering medicines have cameras in them. The camera lights are turned on each time a box is opened from the back of the van.

We can track where the vehicles are as well," added Motsa.



HEALTH: Minister of Health Lizzy Nkosi and Indian High Commissioner to Eswatini Radha Venkataraman captured during the presentation.