

THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND



**HONOURABLE MINISTER OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND
TECHNOLOGY**

AT THE INNOVATION AFRICA – CAPE TOWN SUMMIT

DATE : 5 – 7 OCTOBER, 2012

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PROGRAMME DIRECTOR,

MY COLLEAGUES,

VICE CHANCELLOR,

FACULTY DEANS,

LECTURERS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

1. It is my pleasure to be here in Cape Town and even more so to get the opportunity to stand on this podium to address this august gathering. This is an opportunity to remind ourselves that science is a common heritage and that every nation must be involved in its development. The greatest safeguard for peace lies in assuring that the benefits of science are made available to all people on an equal basis.
2. Our gathering here today should provide an opportunity for scientific organizations, scientists, governments and civil society to join together to acknowledge the crucial contribution of science to the promotion of social progress and better standards of life. This should further create opportunities to raise new questions and look at old problems from a new angle in order to be able to create something new from what we have always had because there is always a way to do it better. It is therefore important that we believe that this will happen and

also believe in ourselves. You can never be innovative if you do not believe in yourself. If you want to be creative you need to understand the laws of natural inertia, that is, any new idea will not be just easily accepted. For new ideas to be accepted, the initiator must be solid and be endowed with courageous patience. In short, innovation does not come easy, an innovator is one that has learned to experiment over and over, learning from failures what will eventually work.

3. Research has demonstrated that the wealth of nations is directly related to how nations have embraced scientific and technological advances. The nations that are running the world today invested heavily in education and research yesterday and those that would be running the world tomorrow are the nations that are investing in education and research today. If developing nations wish to be competitive and become an integral part of the developed league they should seriously consider strengthening their science, technology and innovation (STI) capacities. This is not only about money but has a lot to do with deliberate efforts and plans to overcome the current situation.
4. The accumulation of scientific knowledge and the technological applications that flow from it have transformed human life in modern times, bringing enormous benefits to humankind. However, these benefits have been unequally distributed, reflecting the wide disparities in wealth and opportunities within a socially divided world. This is a division that we need not

whine about as it is upon ourselves to bridge the divide, we have to be innovative. We need to let go of our current comfort zones in the belief that better ones would be created tomorrow.

5. This event should therefore be used as a framework for open discussions regarding the further progress of science, technology and innovation for the benefit of humankind. We would have failed to be innovative if after this august gathering we go back to our old ways. Innovation should start with us and end with our children

8. I Thank you