

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE KINGDOM OF SWAZILAND

The Kingdom of Swaziland welcomes Malaysian businessmen to form partnership and joint ventures in the manufacturing, mining, SMEs and tourism sectors in Swaziland.

Delivering his keynote address at a one day Seminar on Business and Investment Opportunities in the Kingdom of Swaziland on 9 August 2007 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), His Majesty King Mswati III of Swaziland was in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, leading a 40 business delegation.

The Seminar was jointly organised by the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority (SIPA), the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA), the Malaysia South-South Association (MASSA) and the High Commission of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

His Majesty The King said, his country is ever willing and ready to assist Malaysian private sectors and are looking for partners and investors to participate in some of the Swaziland government initiatives, which among others are the building of their millennium projects such as a new and bigger international airport, developing the International Convention Centre and an amusement park.

Located in Southern Africa, between Mozambique and South Africa, Swaziland is the smallest Member State of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

With a total population of approximately 1.2 million people, Swaziland is a unitary, sovereign and democratic Kingdom that has traditionally maintained strong economic and trading links with neighbouring countries like South Africa, Mozambique, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia and other members of SADC and COMESA.

Due to the country's reliance on imports for most consumer goods, Swaziland offers immense opportunities for manufacturing, mostly for exports, import substitution and value addition to a wide range of natural resources like timber, coal, sugar, textiles, fruits, vegetables and other locally available, unprocessed resources.

To facilitate foreign investments into Swaziland, its Government has mandated the Swaziland Investment Promotion Authority - SIPA (www.sipa.org.sz) to assume the function of facilitating the entire process of establishing business operations for new investors as well as establishing companies wishing to expand or open new operations. The process involves business registration, immigration, trading licenses, utilities, environmental compliance and factory inspectorate, national provident and registration.

