

SPEECH BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
SENATOR B.M. NSIBANDZE AT THE CLOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

It seems only yesterday that this important workshop was officially opened by the Hon. Minister of Education, Senator Canon D.P.S. Dlamini. Because of the importance we all attach to this workshop, the Minister for Education has kept all his Cabinet colleagues informed of progress. Consequently I have been asked to come and perform the official closing on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

Swaziland, like all its colleagues in the Commonwealth fraternity would like to congratulate the Commonwealth Secretariat for their responsiveness to the needs of member countries and for the guidance and the promotion of a vast network of personal contacts between the various professional groups. I am certain that during the last few days many of you have formed new friendships and acquaintances some of which will last for many years. I am equally certain that most of you would be excited to attend yet another workshop where you would meet the same participants.

Swaziland is most grateful to have had this opportunity to be the venue for this workshop. Our people have derived considerable benefit. I have been informed that sessions such as the Role of Distance Education, Alternative Approaches to Teacher Education, the Effectiveness of In-Service Teacher Education, and Regional Co-operation in In-Service Teacher Education have aroused considerable interest and should be of tremendous value to each of your countries. I believe also that, in view of the mammoth programme for universal basic education launched throughout Africa, the idea of alternative approaches to in-service teacher education will be welcomed by all member Governments.

As members of the Commonwealth brotherhood, we are proud to belong to this group of nations. The Commonwealth today is no longer a club simply distinguished by the likeness of our membership and a colonial past. Instead, we are a coherent and dynamic organization with diverse cultures. We have an intense capacity for communication across the lines of geography, race, colour, creed and wealth. Today the Commonwealth offers the potential of shared experience and co-operative endeavour across the diversity of mankind. Swaziland, like other members, is proud to belong to this fraternity that has noble objectives and a noble destiny. One of the highest objectives of the Commonwealth is to move by consensus towards a world that can offer the hope of peace and the fulfillment of the basic needs of present and future generations. As citizens of Commonwealth countries, we can do no more than wish our leaders fruitful deliberations in their pursuit of global peace and human understanding.

I should like to thank the Commonwealth Secretariat for all the preparatory work they have made for this workshop, particularly for engaging the services of consultants of international repute. Most of us have noted with great interest the pragmatic response that the Secretariat has made to the demands of member Governments. Over the past years we have seen a positive thrust by the Secretariat indicating that it is alive to the challenges and the increased demands made by the complex issues faced by this dynamic organization.

I should also like to congratulate all those who provided a variety of supportive services without which this workshop would not have been a success. I hope you will all depart with very fond memories, not only of this occasion, but of Swaziland as well. We in this country look forward to welcoming you in any further follow-up workshop. It has been our pleasure to have you with us.