

"Honourable Minister of Housing and Urban Development – Appolo Maphalala and your delegation, CIGFARO President Dr Emmanuel Ngcobo, CIGFARO Vice President Mr Amos Thwala, CIGFARO Chief Executive Officer Ms Lindi Nolte, CIGFARO Communication Specialist Mr Hloni Tseke, National Treasury Representative, and the CIGFARO Mpumalanga delegation from the Republic of South Africa.

My colleagues CIGFARO Executive (The A Team), The Accountant General and your Team, The Auditor General, ELGA representative, ELAMA President, The CEOs of Local Municipalities.

To our past Chairpersons, Ms. Ruth Dube, your ground-breaking leadership set the stage for our growth, Mr. Thulani Mabuza, your vision expanded our horizons and let us remember the late Mr. Petros Nxumalo, whose dedication continues to inspire us even after his passing.

Now, let's take a moment to honour the giants whose shoulders we stand on. I speak of our past chairpersons who laid the foundation for CIGFARO Eswatini: These leaders were more than chairpersons; they were the architects of our organization's future. **Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in a heartfelt round of applause for these financial visionaries!**

[Pause for applause]

Their legacy lives on in our theme: '**Forging Excellence, Empowering Government Finance Leaders in Eswatini: Unleashing Potential - Investing in Government Finance Professionals.**' This isn't just a catchy phrase; it's our battle cry to transform Eswatini's financial landscape!

We Welcome you to a new dawn for CIGFARO Eswatini! Today, we're not just relaunching a chapter; we're igniting a financial revolution.

To our CIGFARO President and South African delegates, your presence elevates this occasion. You remind us that we're part of a greater African financial ecosystem. Thank you for crossing borders to come and support our vision.

CIGFARO Eswatini isn't just an organization; it's your launchpad for excellence. We're actively involved in:

- Advocacy platforms to shape national policies (**PFMA 2017, Rating Act, and many other robust consultations in the Local Gvt Finance Sector**)
- A mentorship scheme to nurture future leaders
- Encourage professional development programs
- Identifying partners to Develop Research initiatives to put Eswatini on the global finance map

We face challenges - resource constraints, technological tsunamis (**AI emergence**), regulatory mazes, devolution (National Government decentralisation program) which marks a new era in the local Government sector.

But in every challenge lies an opportunity. Digital transformation? Let's ride that wave! Capacity building? We'll be the beacon of knowledge! Cross-sector collaboration? We'll break down silos!

But here's the truth: CIGFARO Eswatini's power lies not in programs, but in people. In you. So, I challenge each one of you:

- Be a lifelong learner
- Uphold ethics like your life depends on it (**because our nation's does**)
- Innovate relentlessly
- Be the change you want to see in Eswatini's financial sector

To our South African friends, let's forge stronger regional bonds. Your insights are our stepping stones to greatness.

Fellow finance professionals, the future of Eswatini's economic prosperity is in our hands. **Let's not just manage finances; let's engineer an economic phenomenon. Let's not just crunch numbers; let's craft narratives of national success.**

As we leave here today, remember: We're not just accountants, auditors, or financial managers. **We're the guardians of Eswatini's financial future, the architects of our local Government Finance sector, and nation's prosperity.** Let's honor the legacy of Ms. Dube, Mr. Mabuza, and Mr. Nxumalo by taking CIGFARO Eswatini to unprecedented heights.

Together, let's make CIGFARO Eswatini a beacon of excellence that shines across Africa and beyond. The time is now. The place is here. And the people? **It's us!**

Thank you, and may God bless Eswatini and our entire CIGFARO family. Let's go forth and revolutionize local government finance sector!"

Nkwe!!!!