

**Profile of Proposed Awardee****HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN MOTHER – Indlovukazi Ntombi of Swaziland.****ABOUT NOMINEE**

Name :  
Position : Queen Mother - Indlovukazi of Swaziland  
Address :

**Biographical Details**

Date and Place of Birth : 1949, Swaziland  
Nationality : Swazi  
Education :  
Past and Present Positions : Regent of Swaziland 1983 to 1986  
Queen Mother 1986 to Present  
Honors and Awards : CPTM Award November 2003

**KEY ARGUMENTS FOR NOMINATION**

Her Majesty founded and spearheaded the Liphupho Lendlovu Foundation to ensure that all the organizations and projects under its administration adhere to the Foundation's strict emphasis of social protection issues. In order to ensure that all the disadvantaged sectors of society are given an opportunity, to improve their well-being and status as citizens of Swaziland, the foundation has embarked on various poverty alleviation and food security initiatives. It is an umbrella/mother body for all the organizations and poverty alleviation projects initiated and those to be initiated by the Queen Mother.

The Foundation has embarked on humanitarian, developmental and cultural projects that will improve the socio-economic welfare and food security of the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland from the grass root level. This is being achieved through Implementation of diverse sustainable agricultural and manufacturing projects, in all 55 Constituencies and all 360 Chiefdoms of the Kingdom of Swaziland these projects include but are not limited to:

- Development of cottage and cooperative farming enterprises (fruits & vegetables, garlic, mushroom, paprika, cattle, goats, sheep, fish, pigs etc) to mitigate the food security threat.
- Production factories for food processing to ensure that the communities benefit from the whole value chain process, from cultivation to consumption.
- Blanket making project, these will be manufactured using recycled plastic bottles and bags, the machinery has been obtained and the first factory will be established by December 2011.
- Traditional Home for tourism and educational purposes
- Youth entrepreneurial development programmes (metalwork, carpentry, concrete products, sculpture, fine arts, etc.)
- Pharmaceutical production projects (perfume, essential oils, mushroom medicinal extracts etc)
- Cultural Activities & ceremonies
- Adventure sports, team building, youth holiday lodges/camps
- Building of storage silos and shells in all the 360 chiefdoms

- Affordable green power generation (for the rural communities) by harnessing of solar, wind and ethanol.

The Foundation will also undertake the development of access roads, schools, clinics old age homes, Orphaned and Vulnerable Children homes, low cost housing for the marginalized elderly people and child headed households, and social security infrastructure in all rural areas in alignment with the Foundation's 5 Year Strategic Plan.

The Foundation also aims to reduce/mitigate the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on all Swazi communities by ensuring that the welfare of people living with HIV is fully integrated into these program. These program entail establishing food security focused, community based cottage industry styled sustainable income generating projects, to assist the people living with HIV and those individuals affected, in the worst hit communities.

By and large these citizens have been left out of the mainstream economic development of the country. It was this realization that made her majesty decide to take these issues up personally and ensure that her social responsibility to the citizens of the Kingdom of Swaziland is not delegated or relegated to government organs that will not carry out her vision.

### **Mushroom Farming in Swaziland**

The mushroom farming project in Swaziland originated upon request by Her Majesty Queen Mother Indlovukazi of Swaziland and was run by TICA in cooperation with Thailand's Phra Dabos Foundation and Swaziland's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives. This project like all the other agricultural initiatives aims at addressing food security and generating income for Swaziland's farmers, targeting specially at creating jobs for local women.

On 27-31 May 2009 Thai experts were dispatched to explore the possibilities of cooperation of mushroom farming in Swaziland. 11 officers from Swaziland were invited to join comprehensive training programs at the Phra Dabos Foundation in November 2009 and February 2010 respectively. Four sets of mushroom farming equipment were provided to her Majesty's personal farm, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Swaziland, Nhlanguano Farmer Training Centre and Malkerns Research Station.

The beneficiaries numbered approximately 200 rural women, men and unemployed youth in the first phase of the project implementation within the first three months. After six months of the project implementation the beneficiaries numbered an additional 300 men, women and youth. It is envisaged that after the national rollout of the programme by August 2012 over 100 000 thousand people will benefit within 18 to 24 months.

The cultivation of mushrooms by the communities will also make the produce readily available as a protein substitute for meat and fish in the diet of the disadvantaged sector of the rural and urban population who cannot afford meat.

Mushroom products have a generalized or tonic effect, which in some cases may act prophylactically by increasing resistance to disease in humans from the balancing of nutrients in the diet and the enhancing of the immune systems

**Swaziland Trading House**

The Swaziland Trading House was established to provide and find a market for the products that are made by rural women. Her Majesty emphasized the need to help them find a sustainable market for the various handicraft products that they make for themselves out there in their own rural backyards. The Queen Mother had observed that some unscrupulous individuals are exploiting and taking advantage of the plight of these uneducated and desperate women by buying these natural products for far less than their market value, and selling them at over 300 to 400% profit margins.

Swaziland Trading House buys these products in bulk at far better prices than they are currently being offered. Long –Term agreement are made between the STH and the women who are encouraged to form groups in their communities so that they can be able to satisfy the bulk requirements of the customers. Quality of the products is not compromised as the bulk of the produce is such that it should entice the highly demanding European and other overseas markets. Field officers are often dispatched to help organize the women producers in their respective areas.

**Swazi Secrets**

The Queen Mother propelled by the drive to empower the rural women, realized that the commercialization of the Marula fruits could be done to realize her dream. It all started as a dream to help poor rural women to generate income from the natural products that grow around them. With poverty ravaging the rural areas, she thought deeply and came up with a dream.

The Marula Tree is regarded in many parts of Africa as the King of Africa trees. It is affectionately referred to in some countries as the Elephant Tree because of the way Elephants enjoy its fruits when it is in season. Fruits start dropping from January. Women collect them for preparing the potent Marula brew. The dried fruit produce nuts from which the highly regarded marula oil is produced. Marula Oil is rich in anti-oxidants, notably, folic acid, and Vitamin E known for their anti-ageing properties. It is very healthy in the effective healing of scars tissue.

An essential ingredient for every woman who loves her skin! Women from many parts of the country bring kernels to community collection points where staff from Swazi Indigenous Products weighs them and pay cash on the spot for kernels that meet quality standard of freshness. Products produced from Marula Oil are: soap, sweets, lotion and lip balm.

There is also an Indigenous Fruits production project that is yet another project of Her Majesty. Fruit Preserves, Jam and Jelly will be produced from the indigenous fruits and will be for the local and export market. One of the goals of the Foundations 5 Year Strategic Plan is to have rural women grow Geranium plants for the production of essential oils. Such oils will produce bath oils, perfumes and body massage oils. Experts have also been engaged for the cultivation and development of medicinal plants in Swaziland.

**Swaziland Women's Economic Empowerment Trust (SWEET)**

This project was established in 2008 by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, in her capacity as the Patron for the National Social Dialogue, with the objective to establishing a Woman Empowerment Fund or a "Women's Bank". The formation of SWEET was a responsive machinery to address the socio-economic, development challenges faced by women, in particular the rural communities. The vision of SWEET is to uplift the lives of all Swazi Women by creating wealth through their own efforts, irrespective of their backgrounds.

SWEET will facilitate, link, monitor and evaluate, and coordinate with existing women empowerment and Poverty Reduction initiatives and bring into the mainstream the unbanked grassroots rural community women. The key basic principles guiding SWEET are:

- Ensuring training accompanies lending;
- Integrating social intermediation
- Individual and group-based financed lending;
- Instilling a culture of saving-mobilisation, by so doing reducing the culture and perception of depending subsidies;
- Levying minimal interest rate;
- Equity participation where possible by members and,
- Graduating the matured micro-enterprises into the formal banking sector.

It is envisaged that SWEET will play a pivotal role as an apex organization in influencing women policies through advocacy and lobbying in consultation with interveners on the ground. It is recognized that women need secure financial services which can enable the poor to borrow, save, build assets, increase incomes and overcome the poverty trap in the long run.

### **Khulisa Umntfwana Organisation**

The Khulisa Umntfwana project is an innovative vision of Her Majesty the Queen Mother. She is deeply concerned about the persistent negative reports about the behavior of the youth, early sex, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, substances and drug abuse. As a mother and grandmother herself, the Queen Mother set up the Khulisa Umntfwana Project way back in 1998. Its mission is to review, instill, support and strengthen these values to ensure the future of the country. The Queen Mother officially launched the project in 1999.

When officially introducing this project to the nation, the Queen Mother emphasized that she was deeply concerned by the effects of HIV/AIDS in the Kingdom. “We all as a nation realize that we are besieged by many diseases, apart from the HIV/AIDS pandemic. We are also of the realization that this impacts negatively on our children. It is an undisputable fact that our children are the future”, she said. She observed that a child’s upbringing was important to ensure a sound future for a healthy nation

### **Philani Maswati Organisation**



*The Queen Mother donating some blankets to the elderly*

Philani Maswati organization was formed by the Queen Mother to address the sad plight of poor and elderly scattered in many parts of rural and urban Swaziland. Seeing that many people were interested in supporting the aged and there being no organized structures in place, the Queen Mother formed Philani Maswati Charity Organization to address the plight of the elderly. She had sadly observed that because of the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, many old people had to now fend for themselves because the able bodied bread winners had either died or were not capable of taking care of the elderly and children.

It has been through Philani Maswati Charity Organization that commodities like rice, maize meal, cooking oil, beans, matches, blankets, and school uniforms have been distributed countrywide. Philani Maswati Charity Organization has been instrumental in the revival of hopes in the lives of the despondent senior citizens of the land. Poverty and the associated effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic have been a major cause for concern for the Queen Mother and she has stood up to introduce the various poverty combating initiatives in order to reduce/mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS on the people of Swaziland.

### **Lutsango Lwaka Ngwane – Women’s Regiment**

The Queen Mother is the patron of this regiment of senior women from all corners of Swaziland. They engage in reed cutting just as the young maidens do and complement the maiden’s efforts in the observance of this noble undertaking, in the preservation of the Swazi cutural heritage. She has fought tirelessly to push the course of the Lutsango Regiment and has done well. Women in Swaziland are empowered by this regiment as all forms of empowerment are given to this organized group of women in the Kingdom. It is through this regiment that Her Majesty has reached out to empower rural and urban women alike. She has time again reminded the nation that the cornerstone of ural development and economic empowerment was by being organized with one common purpose and goal. Divisive social groupings such as religion and politics play no role in determining participation by individuals. It is inclusive of groupings from across the social landscape.

### **About the Queen Mother**



Her Majesty the Queen Mother is the nucleus of everything that embodies culture for the Swazi Nation and, by virtue of being the mother of the nation, is the central figure in the cradle of culture, tradition and wellbeing of the citizens of Swaziland. She is a companion of the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management an award bestowed upon her in November 2003.

While other Kings and Queens of the world gloat and laze under royal splendour, such cannot be said for Her Majesty the Indlovukazi. She is a typical African women who always worries herself about what to put on her children’s plate for dinner, her children being the citizen’s of Swaziland. She is involved in different farming activities. Protocol officers and her security detail have a problem preventing her from doing what she likes most, to till the soil. She leaves the comfort of her abode to work under the blazing sun. She is not one to demand extra hands to do what she can do. Women who join her do so under their own volition and all are equal in the fields, her humility is there for all to see.

The Queen Mother of the Kingdom of Swaziland is a dedicated farmer and personally oversees her commercial farming enterprises, these are also used for training of community beneficiaries so as to establish their own community projects. Her Majesty the Indlovukazi’s farming enterprises include a Piggery, Fishery, Diary Goat and Cattle Raising, Rabbit Breeding, Vegetable and Maize Cultivation and Poultry projects. She also produces healthy traditional food stuffs such as jugo beans, cassava, sweet potatoes.

As a young woman, before assuming her responsibilities as the Regent of Swaziland, while his Majesty was studying overseas, the Indlovukazi of the Swazi Nation was an extremely industrious person. She is a highly talented beadwork artist and bought her first cow with proceeds from the sale of her authentic beadwork,

emagcebeshe, this continued over the years and she is now the owner of one of the largest herd of cattle in Swaziland, all purchased through the work of her hands.

It is this personal industrious work ethic of The Queen Mother that encourages all women of the Kingdom of Swaziland to arise and do things for themselves and not be dependant on handouts.

During her Regency the Queen Mother was involved in regional politics and played an active role as a peacemaker between the opposing parties during the first post independence election in Angola, this was in support of the Gabarone Declaration. She also provided protection to the African National Congress by lodging a complaint to the Apartheid Government against the killing of ANC Umkhonto weSizwe cadre living in Swaziland.