

Southern Africa Nazarene University Manzini, Swaziland

For additional information contact: Dr. Winnie Nhlengethwa
Phone: +2685054636

For Immediate Release:

Manzini- Members of Parliament, doctors, nurses, faculty, students and other interested persons gathered at the Southern African Nazarene University to participate in a presentation on parliamentary government in Swaziland and the United States.

Honorable MP Nonhlanhla Dlamini explained the Swazi electoral process, the Swazi parliamentary process and the government oversight role of the Swazi parliament.

She urged all Swazi's to register to vote during the registration window. She made the point that Swazis cannot be elected nor can they participate in voting if they do not register, so they should always register.

Professor Rick Farmer from Southern Nazarene University in the USA presented the same three topics describing the American Congress. He explained that democracy is a slow and deliberative process. "Some say it is messy. However, it does manage to take action upon the most important issues," he said.

The master of ceremonies for the gathering was former MP Vulindlela Msibi. Currently, MP Vulindlela is the Executive Secretary of the Swaziland Global Fund Country Coordinating Mechanism. In addition to hosting the meeting he assisted with the conference organization.

The event was organized to take advantage of Dr. Farmer being in Swaziland with the Nazarene Swaziland Partnership. It also fell on the same day that the Parliament met for the unsuccessful joint sitting. Dr. Farmer traveled to Lobamba and observed the joint sitting. He commented, "This is another example of democracy in action. Sometimes it does not look pretty from the outside, but when these issues are resolved the Parliament will take action."

The Nazarene Swaziland Partnership is a force mobilization of several groups to support Swaziland in the fight against HIV/AIDS. The partners include: Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital and its 17 rural clinics, Southern Africa Nazarene University, Faculty of Health Sciences (former Nazarene College of Nursing), Swaziland Church of the Nazarene, Swaziland HIV/AIDS Task Force, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Bethany First Church of the Nazarene and Southern Nazarene University – both in Oklahoma, USA.

The University of Swaziland has signed a cooperative agreement with Southern Nazarene University's Morningstar Institute for the evaluation of community gardens and the economic benefit to these communities. Other local partners are actively being sought.

This week the partnership is expanding a child development center in Ntondozi, working at a child center in Manzini, conducting health clinics with The Luke Commission and Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital, and hosting a Nazarene Swazi pastors' conference.

The conference is focusing on the Christian response to HIV/AIDS. Pastors are discussing how to extend the grace of God to those who are suffering from this terrible disease.

Dr. David Basic, pastor of Bethany First Church of the Nazarene in Oklahoam, USA, is leading the conference. He said, "Jesus reached out to those who were the most sick, the poor and society's outcasts. Christians must do the same."

He continued, "The Church of the Nazarene was founded on principle of extending God's grace to those in need. We made a commitment to Swaziland 100 years ago. Through Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital, Southern Africa Nazarene University and the Swaziland Partnership we will keep that commitment.

The Swaziland Partnership can be found on the web at <http://www.swazipartners.org/>