



PRESS STATEMENT

For immediate release

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

First female appointed Scout Chief Commissioner

MBABANE – The Swaziland Scout Association (SSA) has appointed Zodwa Gama as Deputy Chief Commissioner. The appointment is with effect from September 1, 2007 until August 31, 2009. Gama will head the organisation's finances and special projects.

Gama is the first female in the history of Scouting in the Kingdom of Swaziland to hold such a high-profile executive management position. She is also an employee of Save the Children Swaziland.

Prior to her appointment, Gama served as Commissioner for Scouts with Special Needs under the Youth Programme department. She has attended and represented the country in many international conferences and meetings. Gama attended the recent Africa Scout Conference held in Rwanda last month. She is expected to attend a consultative policy meeting in South Africa this weekend.

This follows the appointment of the new Chief Scout Richard Magongo by the organisation's patron, His Majesty King Mswati III. Magongo who served as chief commissioner for over 20 years appointed his long-serving deputy Malungisa Dlamini.

The new Chief Commissioner Malungisa Dlamini made history by appointing a young female as his deputy. This appointment has been received with lots of excitement both internally and abroad. Gama has already received a congratulatory note from the World Scout Bureau, Africa Regional Office (ARO) based in Kenya. The Regional Director Rubina Haroon, who is also the first female in her position, thanked Swaziland for making history. Haroon was grateful that the organisation recognises one of the key priorities for world Scouting to provide equal opportunities.

Gama made her first appearance as second in charge of operations in the organisation recently. This was during a Wood Badge Reunion held at the home of Robert Zwane in Mbadlane. The event also attended by community police was also graced by the Chief Scout Richard Magongo, and Robert Zwane.

On another note, Gama is leading a team of three Scout leaders tasked with developing a 'Child Protection Policy'. This will be the first the organisation has such a policy. This is aimed at protecting the young members of the organisation from any sorts of harm. The policy will state clearly the rights of the child and action to be taken in the unlikely event of an abuse.

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