

Governor's Remarks

IndabaX Eswatini 2026

CBE Complex | 23 September 2026

- Programme Director
- Council of the FinTech Forum Eswatini
- Executive Committee Members
- FinTech Forum Eswatini Members
- Professor S.G. Fashoto of the Namibia University of Science and Technology,
- Representatives of the Deep Learning Indaba consortium and Zindi Africa,
- Lecturers, researchers, innovators and students,
- Members of the media,
- Ladies and gentlemen,

GOOD MORNING

Introduction

1. It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Central Bank of Eswatini Complex for IndabaX Eswatini 2026.

2. The event brings together institutions that hold different mandates but share a common responsibility - preparing Eswatini for an economy where technology, data and new forms of intelligence shape the way decisions are made.

Acknowledgements

3. I would like to start by acknowledging the University of Eswatini, the Eswatini Revenue Service, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority, the Eswatini Communications Commission, the Centre for Financial Inclusion and the Royal Science and Technology Park – for collectively supporting this event through their expertise, resources and presence.
4. I also extend our appreciation to the Deep Learning Indaba consortium, Zindi Africa, Namibia University of Science and Technology, University of Zululand, AI Eswatini, and to all partners who supported this initiative.

FinTech Forum Eswatini

5. For several years, the Eswatini FinTech Working Group (EFWG) constituted by various institutions brought technical expertise to one table to address issues affecting our fintech ecosystem. This culminated to various significant milestones, including the Eswatini National FinTech Strategy launched in December last year.
6. The scope the EFWG has, over the years, increased. It is longer limited to technical coordination between institutions. The Working Group is now required to engage with industry, innovators, researchers, students and with

the wider public. As such, member institutions agreed that the Working Group must transition into a Forum.

7. It gives great pleasure this morning, to re-introduce the Eswatini FinTech Working Group under its new name, “FinTech Forum Eswatini”.
8. Principals of the member institutions have also constituted themselves as a Council, placing responsibility for the financial innovation agenda at a strategic leadership level.

2026 IndabaX Theme

Turning to this year's IndabaX theme, *“Ensemble Machine Learning for resilient decision making”*;

9. A decision informed by several perspectives can, under the right conditions, be more reliable than one that rests on a single model.
10. At the Central Bank, we take decisions under conditions of uncertainty, considering risks that have not yet fully materialized. As such, we do not rely on a single indicator or model.
11. The question to answer, is no longer “what can machine learning do?” but how this technology, together with the data already held by our institutions, can improve the quality of the decisions we make.

Access to Data

12. Last year, IndabaX participants were asked to forecast Eswatini’s headline inflation, an economic indicator that affects the cost of living in every

household and the operating environment of every business. The Bank made its dataset available to participants and the output showed us how important accurate data is in the design of solutions.

13. This year, Eswatini Revenue Service has committed to do the same. Institution by institution, we are beginning to dismantle barriers that constrain our researchers and innovators.

14. The Forum exists to achieve exactly that. It is not just a platform for enabling innovation; it is a mechanism for placing the tools of innovation in the hands of those who will use them to solve real problems.

15. When institutions avail data, young people are able to diagnose problems using Eswatini's data, to produce insights that policymakers can rely on and products responding to the needs of EmaSwati.

To Our Students and Young Researchers,

16. You have chosen to be here. That decision matters.

17. Over the next two days you will hear how machine learning is already being applied in credit, financial inclusion, tax administration, and communications regulation.

18. You will also hear from our keynote speaker, Professor Fashoto, a former lecturer at Department of Computer Science at the University of Eswatini, an Associate Professor of Data Science in Namibia and the community lead for IndabaX across Africa.

19. Careers are built over time, and much of that journey begins with opportunities such as the one created for you through IndabaX.

20. To the young women in this room, there is a place for you here. You belong here. Never allow anyone to convince you otherwise. We would like to see more of you taking STEM careers, participating in hackathons, building FinTech solutions, researching and taking various leadership positions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

21. It is now my singular honour to invite the Council of the FinTech Forum Eswatini for the signing the Memorandum of Understanding formalizing the Forum and its governance structures.

GOOD MORNING