

# **Phil Mnisi: Empowering young people in financial decision-making**

Remarks by Mr Phil Mnisi, Governor of the Central Bank of Eswatini, at the Global Money Week Launch "Smart money talks", Ezulwini, 11 March 2026.

\* \* \*

Honorable Minister of Finance,  
Honorable Minister for Education,  
Principal Secretaries for Finance and Education,  
Deputy Governor,  
Senior Government Officials,  
CEOs present here, including industry captains,  
Lecturers and Teachers here present,  
Esteemed guests (University students and the young ones),  
Ladies and Gentlemen, I greet you all and good morning!

## **Introduction**

It is a great honour to welcome you to the 2026 edition of Global Money Week, a worldwide initiative dedicated to empowering children and the youth to build a financially resilient future.

This year's theme – "Smart Money Talks", reminds us that the way we talk about money shapes the way we use it, and ultimately, how we shape our financial futures. This is a call for action! The need to normalize conversations about money, to replace silence with understanding and to ensure every young person gains the confidence to navigate an increasingly complex financial world. The initiative holds significant importance in promoting financial awareness and empowerment among our youth.

## **Encouraging open conversations about money**

One may feel that personal finances can sometimes be overwhelming, stressful, or even like a topic best avoided. Many young people may be unsure about asking questions related to money, uncertain about whom to approach, or hesitant to speak openly about their financial challenges. But let me assure you: speaking up, sharing your experiences, and seeking guidance from trusted sources are the very steps that will empower you to take control of your financial well-being. The courage to ask, to learn, and to engage in honest conversations about money is the beginning of smarter financial choices and a stronger financial future.

As current or prospective users of financial services, it is essential that you equip yourselves with the right information before making any financial decisions, whether it involves managing a scholarship allowance, navigating student loans, or keeping track of your expenses while enjoying time with friends.

## **Making informed financial decisions**

Ladies and Gentlemen, making informed decisions on money matters should include identifying reputable websites that offer credible financial education, conducting research using the platforms of regulatory authorities and licensed financial service providers, and seeking guidance from adults who have faced similar financial decisions. It also calls for formulating the right questions when engaging with financial sales representatives and visiting financial institutions for the sole purpose of gathering information, rather than rushing to access products or services.

Part of being financially smart is also knowing how to exercise caution so you can avoid misinformation that may lead to poor financial decisions. In today's digital age, financial advice can spread quickly and may appear credible or even promising, yet it can expose you to risky, misleading, or fraudulent activities and investments.

This is why it is crucial to take the time to verify any financial information you come across. Always check the credibility of the source, confirm details through reputable platforms, and never hesitate to contact a licensed financial institution or regulatory authority for clarity. Being inquisitive is not a sign of doubt, but rather, a sign of wisdom.

## **Financial education as a foundation for lifelong empowerment**

To our youth, financial education is your toolkit. It provides you with the basics of budgeting, the ability to navigate digital finance, and the confidence to have important conversations about money. These skills do not just help you avoid costly mistakes, but they also reduce anxiety and empower you to build healthy financial habits that will serve you for life.

As we commemorate Global Money Week, let us commit to having those critical financial conversations. Let us pledge to support one another, to ask questions, to keep learning, and to grow together. By doing so, we ensure that every young person is equipped with the tools, knowledge, and confidence needed to manage money wisely and to build a secure, empowered financial future.

## **Youth engagement through practical learning initiatives**

As part of this year's event, we, as stakeholder community have continued to expand opportunities for student engagement in Global Money Week by introducing competitions that make financial education more practical, interactive, and meaningful. These initiatives are designed to encourage active participation, deepen understanding, and enable young people to apply financial concepts in real-life situations, thereby strengthening their confidence and decision-making skills.

I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to all the students who have participated in these competitions, and we congratulate in advance all the winners.

## **Appreciation of stakeholders**

In conclusion, I extend my sincere gratitude to all the stakeholders, partners, and participants who have dedicated their time, expertise and resources to make this event a success. Let us seize this opportunity to empower our youth, protect their financial interests, and ultimately shape a more financially resilient and empowered generation.

Esteemed guests, it gives me pleasure to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister's Office - represented by the Disability Department, in their inaugural participation in this year's Global Money Week initiative. We look forward to a meaningful and fruitful collaboration as we work together to ensure that no Liswati is left behind in our journey toward achieving full financial inclusion. This reflects our shared commitment and determination to leave no one behind, as we strive together toward His Majesty's call of 'Nkwe'.

I thank you all!!!