



Workers Unite For a Common cause

Build It workers take to the streets in demand for better working conditions and pay increase

Report by Tenanile

On Thursday 4 August 2022, over 50 Build It workers took to the streets, marching to deliver a petition to their employers. This comes after several complaints about workers' demands which the employer ignored.

Build It is a big hardware franchise which has many different stores located in Swaziland. It deals mostly with building and construction material.

The workers' demands include demands for permanent jobs for all, salary increments, work uniforms and safety clothing, the end of arbitrary warnings issued by management, and also called for the hiring of more workers to ease the extreme burden on current workers.

The Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) supported the workers' action. Other political formations also joined in support of the workers' demands.

The workers delivered the petition in three different Build It stores, two in Manzini city and one in Matsapha, all raising the same demands.

Delivering the CPS's message of support to the workers' action, CPS Central Committee Member, Comrade Mhlonishwa Mtsetfwa said, "Let us remember, comrades, that without us as workers, the company is nothing. The issue of working under short-term contracts must come to an end."

"Build It owners must give workers their well-deserved benefits," continued Mhlonishwa.

Build It workers are extremely overburdened by work. Workers have thus demanded the hiring of more people because the company is seriously understaffed.

"Build It must hire enough staff so that the workers are not overworked while they are underpaid," added Mhlonishwa.

Comrade Mhlonishwa reiterated the Communist Party's solidarity with the workers.

"As the Communist Party, we say that employees have the right to voice out their demands where they are exploited, and this must not be met by punitive

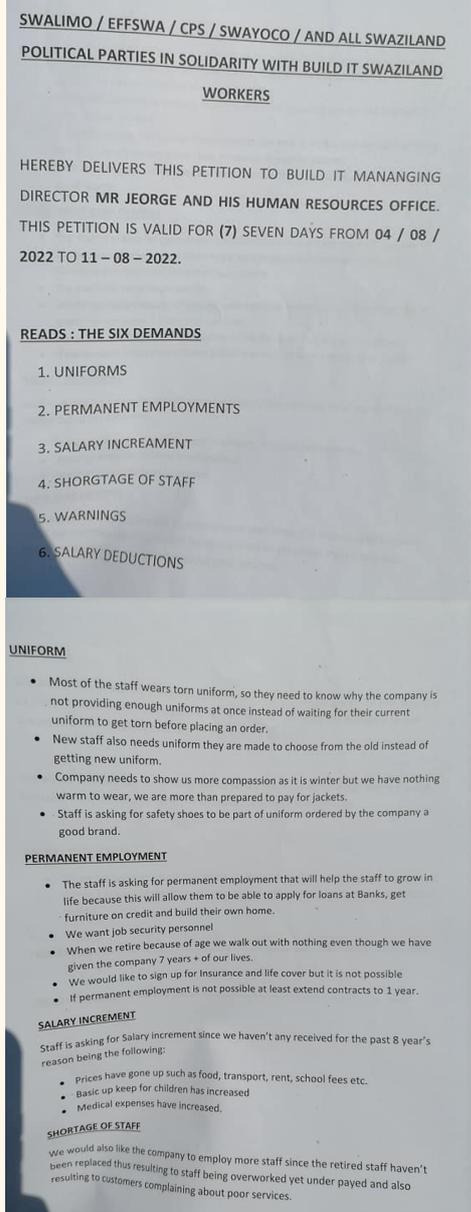
measures from the employer," he affirmed.

Comrade Mhlonishwa thus went on to warn the company bosses against victimising workers who stood up for their rights. The victimisation of workers for their activism is a well-known phenomenon in Swaziland, and it often goes unchecked by the oppressive tinkhundla government.

"After today, we are not expecting to hear that some workers are being victimised just because they organised this protest and freely voiced their demands. If that happens, the stores will be forcefully closed," Mhlonishwa warned.

After the petition was successfully delivered, workers together with democracy activists marched to another Build It store in Manzini, next to Manzini Market. They found the gates closed, denied access by the shop managers.

Workers together with activists had to force their way



to minor mistakes such as forgetting to clock out which causes the company to pay lawyers instead of taking that money and helping the staff.

We would also like to ask the company to be fair when giving warnings where it's due because some of the staff feels like they are not being punished fairly.

SALARY DEDUCTION

- When mistakes are made we agree we have to pay but let us negotiate payment terms, because of the little we earn and yet other have commitments outside of build it.

SIGNATURES: CONTACT : 7660 5284

BUILD IT MANAGING DIRECTOR:



Ndzimandze explained the security workers' demands

SATU is a union of security workers in Swaziland.

The petition that was to be delivered on this day involved the issue of one security company named ForHim Securities.

In May this year, the administration of the University of Swaziland terminated the company's contract. This meant that workers would lose their jobs. For a whole two months, the government did not do anything to help workers who lost their jobs.

The workers demanded their back-pay. Their back-pay, however, has not been made partly due to the delay of the issuing of a gazette by the government.

Ndzimandze, a security officer from Manzini, explained, "We also wanted to question the delay in the issuing of the gazette. But now we hear that the workers who were ahead in Mbabane have been dispersed by the police there."

What had happened is that one group of security workers had arrived earlier than the others at the ministry of Labour and Social Security in Mbabane.

While the workers were at the ministry's gates, waiting for their colleagues based in Manzini and Matsapha, the royal police of Swaziland fired teargas to disperse them. The police also fired rubber bullets at the workers.

As the news of the dispersing of workers spread, those coming from Matsapha and Manzini decided to meet in Matsapha, Kwaluseni sports ground, to forge the way forward. Activists of the Communist Party of Swaziland continued to be in solidarity with the workers.

After democratic, robust debates among workers, they resolved to elect a new day to deliver their petition. There was disappointment among some of the workers for the failure to deliver the petition on the chosen day, but workers remained united in the call for freedom in Swaziland.

in and forced the company managers to sign the petition.

The workers and activists then proceeded to the Mahhala Build It store in Matsapha and delivered their final petition.

In the Matsapha action, CPS Central Committee member, Comrade Vuyiswa Maseko, presented the message to the workers on behalf of the Party.

"The Communist logo is a sickle and a hammer united, stating that workers come together," said Vuyiswa.

"By so saying, comrades, it is important that as workers we unite and fight the oppressor," he added.

He also explained the role of the Communist Party in the struggles of workers.

"Communists are the vanguard of the working class and poor, meaning that where there is oppression and victimisation of workers, as the CPS we will give support and solidarity, which is why we are here today," Vuyiswa Maseko explained.

Workers gave Build It seven days to respond to their demands in all three stores. The workers stated that if they do not receive a response in seven days, they will be back to protest, fighting for their demands until they are met.

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Mswati's police use teargas and rubber bullets to disperse poorly paid security guards as they march to the government

Report by Pretty Mkhonta

On Thursday 4 August 2022, security guards organised under the Swaziland Amalgamated Trade Unions (SATU) had planned to deliver a petition at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in Mbabane.

The royal police, however, violently dispersed the workers in Mbabane, crushing the protest.

CPS sunset rally galvanises community members in Manzini

On Sunday 31 July 2022, the Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) hosted another night rally in the community of KaKhoza, one of the townships outside Swaziland's largest city, Manzini.

Over four hundred community members, mostly youth, braved chilly winter conditions to actively participate in the rally.

The night rally was part of the Sunset Rallies programme of the CPS under the Party's "Turning the heat for Democracy Now" campaign.

The CPS held the rally on the same weekend that the tinkhundla regime held its undemocratic elections in Siphofaneni constituency to fill one position in its puppet parliament.

The rally, a form of politically educating the communities and a mobilization strategy towards a revolutionary insurrection against the Mswati autocracy, was received by the people of KaKhoza with great enthusiasm.

CPS National Commissar, Titus Vilakati, addressed the issue of low wages in the midst of a steep hike in the cost of essential goods in the country and how this has caused a strain in the entire livelihood of the people of Swaziland.

He went on to encourage the people on forming welfare and security councils as means to defend themselves against the Mswati regime.

The Commissar added, "We know that the police are murderers. We must thus urgently form the community councils, particularly the security and welfare councils."

The security council "will ensure that no longer shall Mswati's police invade our communities and kill our people," explained the Commissar.

The security council will also "help the people defend themselves against police brutality and help community members fight for freedom in an organised way," said the Commissar.

The Commissar reiterated the Communist Party's message that "the tinkhundla autocracy must be forced out and replaced by a democratic system."

He also reminded community members to obtain whistles as means of raising awareness whenever Mswati's security forces invade the community.

"At least one member from every household must join the struggle in fighting the exploitative tinkhundla system," emphasised the Commissar.

Member of the CPS Commissariat, Sambulo Shongwe, also rallied the masses to unite and defend themselves and also empower each other.

"Each and every home must have a role to play," he said. "Already, the municipality is imposing rates on the people, school fees are too steep," he added.

The CPS Sunset Rallies have also received support from other political formations whose members actively take part.

On the Sunday night rally, SWALIMO members also participated. Speaking on behalf of SWALIMO, Lucky Ndwandwe emphasised the need for participation of all Swazis in the revolution against the tinkhundla system. He stressed the importance of each and every Swazi to participate in the struggle as no one from outside will come as their "messiah" and deliver them from the claws of this dead system.

KaKhoza community members called upon the CPS to organise more rallies in their community as a means of mass mobilisation and conducting of political education.

As per tradition, the Sunset Rally was concluded with the singing of The Internationale at around 20:30hrs.

The official ending of the rally did not mean the end of political work in the community as community study groups went on to converge for door-to-door engagements with community members, discussing going on till the early morning hours of Monday.