



## COMMUNIST PARTY OF SWAZILAND INTENSIFIES SUNSET RALLIES

### KaKhoza community members ready to defend themselves against police brutality

By Lwazi Maziya

The people of KaKhoza township in Manzini City showed great interest in the night-time rallies, officially known as “Sunset Rallies”, led by the CPS. They came out to welcome and listen to the message delivered by the CPS.

The rally was held on Sunday 26 June 2022.

Despite the repression that CPS members are continuously subjected to by Mswati’s police, KaKhoza community members braved the chilly night weather and were ready to defend the communist activists, showing support and interest towards the message of freedom.

CPS Head of Women Commission, Comrade Gabi Ndukuya, urged KaKhoza community members to be agents of their own freedom.

She stated, “As the CPS, we reiterate the fact that the time for tinkhundla rule is over. The time for Mswati’s rule is over. We, the people, are the ones who must defend ourselves, and we are the people who will free ourselves from the shackles of tinkhundla oppression.”

Comrade Gabi went on to encourage community members to form community councils.

She emphasised, “The time has come for all of us to intensify the struggle. The tinkhundla regime’s police are incapable of defending us from normal crimes, but they only follow Mswati’s orders to kill us. We must defend ourselves from police brutality and all forms of crime. Let us start now to prove how we will build people’s power by forming community councils and make them work for all of us as the people of Swaziland.”

The CPS encourages all individuals from different communities to unite and fight Mswati’s regime. The message of the CPS in this regard is “United we stand, and we are capable of defeating the enemy.”

All that is needed is for every homestead to be educated about how to come together with other members of society against Mswati and his autocracy.

Mswati's puppets and all sorts of spies are recruited from around the communities, as CPS National Organising Secretary stated in his address. As such, if we

unite, we will easily know the spies and defeat the regime.

The Organiser also called for unity during the rally. “Let each and every community be united such that when Mswati's police invade our communities, we can signal each other and then evacuate to safety,” he said.

### Why the Sunset Rallies

1. Communities in Swaziland are forming community councils: Security Council, Welfare Council, etc.

2. The time has come for communities to unite for total freedom in Swaziland.

3. The current regime does not care about the needs of the people.

4. Police must have intense fear whenever they think of invading communities. They must be opposed by communities.

5. The minority regime should not be allowed to rule over us any longer. We're the majority, they're the minority.

6. There will be no messiah from anywhere who will come and fight for our freedom. We must be the ones to lead our own struggle for freedom.

7. Let us not be fooled by the likes of SADC. They were in Swaziland to protect the oppressive monarchy and fooled the masses about "dialogue".

8. The parasitic monarchical regime must be totally overthrown and replaced with a democratic republic.

9. We must fight for the total unbanning of political parties, release of political prisoners, return of political exiles, freedom of association, assembly, speech.

10. Down with the Mswati autocracy! Forward to Socialism!

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*Summarised address by CPS National Organising Secretary, Comrade Simphiwe Dlamini, during Sunset Rally held at Msunduza township, Mbabane, on Friday 24 June 2022.*



# CPS activists survive police bullets in Mbabane during Mahwalala rally



By Pretty Mkhonta

**O**n Saturday 25 June 2022, the CPS led yet another sunset rally, this time in Mahwalala, Mbabane.

Mahwalala is in the outskirts of the capital city of Swaziland, about four kilo-

metres from the city.

This was the second sunset rally of that weekend, following the rally that the CPS held at Msunduzi on Friday 24 June 2022. These sunset rallies programs are held by the CPS in different communities in Swaziland, to raise revolutionary consciousness amongst the masses in the communities.

Moving from Zone 4 on their way to reach another part of Mahwalala, CPS members approached a T-Section of the road where a red van stopped trying to block the other side of the road. At that moment, vehicles of Mswati's security forces appeared.

The police immediately fired live bullets at CPS activists with the intention of disrupting the peaceful rally. CPS activists, together with community members, stood their ground against the police. In the end, the police failed to effect any arrest.

Later in the night, CPS activists regrouped and accompanied the children of the community to their families.

With regard to the rally itself, CPS activists were warmly welcomed by members of the community who had come out in their numbers to listen to the Party's message.

CPS National Organising Secretary, Simphiwe Dlamini, addressed the community members at Mahwalala. He enlightened the masses that the time has come for communities to unite for total freedom in Swaziland.

The Organiser continued, "Mswati's dictatorship has come to an end. He has oppressed Swazis in every way possible. He no longer has a place in Swaziland. If not jailed, he must die. His parasitic monarchical regime must be totally overthrown and replaced with a democratic republic."

In Mahwalala, the CPS and the community are in the process of forming two councils: The *Welfare Council* and the *Security Council*. Preparations for the formation of more community councils are ongoing.

"Police must fear invading communities," said the National Organiser.

"They must be opposed by communities, and that



is where the Security Council will have to ensure that there will not be any police or any security forces from the oppressive regime that would enter the community to brutalise members of the community," continued the Party Organiser.

He went on to counsel community members to each have a whistle to alert other members of the community should the security forces try to enter the community and that each family should give up a member of their family to be part of the revolution.

The National Organiser also explained the importance of the Welfare Council.

He stated that the Welfare Council "has to ensure that no member of the community goes to bed on an empty stomach while other members of the community have food, and no member should fall ill without medical care when there are nurses in the community".

At Mahwalala Zone 4, CPS Deputy Commissar, Comrade Mancoba Motsa, addressed the community, explaining that every person has a duty in the revolution.

He further alerted community members of the reality that there will be no messiah from anywhere who will come and fight for their freedom; that they must be the ones to take responsibility and lead their own struggle for freedom.

Comrade Mancoba enlightened the masses of the community that the minority regime should not be allowed to rule over the people any longer.

"We are the majority, and they are the minority," said Comrade Mancoba.

He added, "The current regime does not care about the needs of people. *Kuyoze kube nini sigcilatwa nguMakhosetive nemndeneni wakhe?*" (For how long shall we allow Mswati and his family to oppress us?).



# Swaziland celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *LGBTIQ+ Pride*



*The LGBTIQ+ community in Swaziland must intensify the fight for democracy now in Swaziland. In a democratic society, that is where their rights will be respected, writes Mphatsi Vilakati.*

Swaziland celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> annual LGBTIQ+ Pride which was held at Manzini Club in Manzini on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 under the theme “Intersectionalities in the LGBTIQ+ space”. The event was organised by the consortium of all the seven LGBTIQ+ organisations in Swaziland. It was attended by the members of LGBTIQ+ community and support groups.

## The History of LGBTIQ+ Pride

The LGBTIQ+ Pride was inspired by the first Pride event which began on 28 June 1969 at Stonewall in the United States of America. The New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club located in the Greenwich Village in the New York City. According to Histoty.com, in the 1960s and the preceding decades were not welcoming for the LGBTIQ+ community. They were verbally, emotionally and physically abused.

The intention of the police raid on that particular day was to arrest every gay person in the club. Their rights were violated and some of them were assaulted by the police. They resisted the arrest and began to march to the streets of New York demanding their rights to be respected. The resistance movement grew stronger and spread throughout the USA.

## The LGBTIQ+ Pride in Swaziland

The LGBTIQ+ Pride event in Swaziland takes place at a time when Mswati's regime is refusing to register Eswatini Sexual and Gender Minorities (ESGM), an organisation which is advocating for the protection of rights of gender minorities in Swaziland.



*CPS National Commissar, Comrade Titus Vilakati*

In an interview during the activity, ESGM project officer, Mapezu Kunene, explicitly stated that the Swaziland government is flatly refusing to register ESGM because it is viewing the LGBTIQ+ community as immoral, illegal, uncultural and demonic.

Kunene also stated that normally the event starts with a march around town where we will raise awareness and visibility to the broader society.

“This is the event where we are commemorating and reflecting on the challenges faced by the LGBTIQ+ community in Swaziland through raising awareness of the oppression faced by the gender minorities’ community”, said Kunene.

Kunene added, “When marching on the streets in town, that is where we share the pain we face daily from society and engage with them to say we need their support. This year we were denied that opportunity to engage the members of the society. The government, through the Manzini Municipality, did not grant us permission to march on the streets of Manzini.”

She further elaborated that as members of ESGM, they have exhausted all the constitutionally laid down channels for the regime to register their organisation but all that fell on deaf ears. They firmly believe that their rights and recognition will be fulfilled in a democratic society as they do not see any future in the current regime.

They are calling on all the progressive forces in Swaziland to intensify the fight for democracy now where the people of Swaziland will fully enjoy their rights.

Speaking at the event, the Commissar of Communist Party of Swaziland, Titus Vilakati, eloquently stated that the Communist Party of Swaziland fully supports the LGBTIQ+ movement and they support the call by ESGM for the registration of the organisation as well, for **LGBTIQ+ rights are human rights.**

**LGBTIQ+:** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Intersexual, Queer, and others.

# CPS Commemorates June/July 2021 Massacre

**O**n 29 June 2022, the people of Swaziland commemorated the first anniversary of the gruesome massacre spearheaded by the brutal tinkhundla regime on an unarmed population calling for democracy in their country.

From as early as April 2021, leading to 29 June 2021 and months that followed, hundreds of thousands of Swazis bravely took it upon themselves to demand that Swaziland democratises.

29 June 2022 thus marked an important day of reflection on the past year to also look at how far they have come as a nation in the struggle for democracy.

In early 2021, the youth of Swaziland came out strongly and declared itself the last generation to be oppressed. Their practical struggles led to what is now known as the *2021 Swazi Uprising*.

The tinkhundla system now hangs by a thread. Political parties remain banned in Swaziland, Africa's last absolute monarchy, an archaic system which now embarrasses even some of its imperialist backers.

The royal family, in a country where close to 70 percent of the population survive below the poverty line, continues to attract anger from the masses due to its unbridled waste of public resources.

On the days leading to the first anniversary of the massacre, the royal police intensified its harassment of the CPS and the mass democratic movement.

In its 29 June 2022 statement, the CPS issued a stern warning to the security cluster, that "they must know that the people are fed up".

"The growing tide of democracy calls from the oppressed and exploited masses of our country can no longer be stopped", stated the Party.

The Communist Party's "Democracy Now" campaign which the Party launched in 2019 continues to broaden and deepen among the oppressed people of Swaziland. The CPS continues to educate, organise and agitate the masses towards a democratic and ultimately socialist Swaziland.

The CPS has also gone on to directly interact with the people in their communities. In this regard, in line with the CPS's 2021 Red October call to "*Turn Up the Heat for Democracy Now*", the CPS has called for the formation of community councils. This is an ongoing campaign and is already putting the regime on the back foot.

Despite growing attacks by the regime, the people of Swaziland, in their numbers, have heeded the call by the CPS to defend themselves from the state's murderous apparatus which has for years done as they pleased in terrorising the masses.

The CPS has also deepened the formation of study units in the communities, guided by the Marxist-Leninist scientific method to revolution. From the study units, more Swazis are now highly conscien-

tised on the necessity for the total dismantling of the tinkhundla system for the attainment of democracy now.

The masses of our country have also seen the need to render the country ungovernable, including rendering the regime unable to run its 2023 parliamentary elections.

On 30 June 2022, the National Health and Allied Workers Union led a picket at the Swaziland High Commission in Pretoria as part of the commemorative events of the massacre.

During the picket, CPS General Secretary, Comrade Thokozane Kenneth Kunene, remarked that, "The Swazi High Commission in South Africa does not serve any purpose for the people of Swaziland. It is not a diplomatic facility but, in fact, a satellite of criminality. It serves the skunk government of Mswati and the tinkhundla system, which has no obligation to us as Swazis."

He added that the people of Swaziland "are in the process of removing a skunk that is a nuisance to our lives and we must be ruthless in doing so".

The Mswati autocracy "still survives with some networks which it still has internationally, and we must work harder to deny it the capacity to build on more connections", continued the General Secretary.

The General Secretary also added, "The only way to remove this regime is to fight it, and we must fight it economically. We know that those in business dealings with the regime cannot easily submit to the people's will. We must directly temper with all the facilities that grease the regime.

"The regime is unable to sustain its military and the police. We must thus close all the facets which support mega revenues that they are collecting."

The General Secretary also warned the people about the oppressive role played by Taiwan in Swaziland.

He clarified that, "Our biggest enemy in Swaziland now is Taiwan, which has assumed colonial power in Swaziland. They are running the army. However, it must be remembered in this regard that Taiwan is a province of China: it is not a country, though it presents itself as such."

While Mswati has talked about mercenaries in Swaziland, the General Secretary made it clear that "we know for a fact that the real mercenaries are harboured in Mswati's police college in Matsapha".

General Secretary Kunene also stressed that only the people can end the dictatorship, but that this will only take place when the people have been politically conscientised and learned the tactics of how to fight under conditions of illegality and where a war has been imposed upon them.

In commemorating the massacre, the CPS commended the spirit of no-surrender that has been displayed by the people of Swaziland and called for the greatest possible unity in the fight against the tinkhundla system, for the attainment of true people's power.



# NEHAWU pickets in Pretoria in solidarity with Swazis and Zimbabweans

30 June 2022



Above: CPS General Secretary, Comrade Thokozane Kenneth Kunene, making his address, during picket at Swazi Embassy.  
Below: Leaders, activists at Swazi Embassy picket.

Above: Zimbabwe Communist Party's National Political Commissar, Comrade Ian Beddowes, addressing during the NEHAWU-led picket at the Zimbabwean Embassy. Below: Leaders and activists at Zimbabwean Embassy.

