



# CPS rallies inject revolutionary consciousness in communities

By Elihle Magagula and Lwazi Maseko



**T**he Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) has since the beginning of the year 2022 embarked on night rallies in communities around the country as part of the “Democracy Now” campaign which has been widely adopted by the masses across Swaziland.

The night rallies have rapidly become a source of confidence and hope for the Swazi people. They are more and more being received with enthusiasm by people across the country.

On Saturday 20 August 2022, the CPS rallied around the communities of New Village and Logoba in Matsapha. The CPS delivered political education and arming the people of these communities with the strategies and tactics on how they can govern themselves in their communities without the interference of the tinkhundla system.

“We cannot deny the fact that the tinkhundla system is the worst system ever thought about,” said CPS National Organising Secretary, Simphiwe Dlamini.

“The fact is tinkhundla system was never intended to represent human interests but was for individual interests,” he continued.

Mhlonishwa Mtsetfwa, CPS Central Committee Member, speaking to the people of New Village reiterated the necessity of having welfare councils which will serve to govern each community in the different communities of Swaziland.

“It is of vital importance that the people of Swaziland govern themselves as the existing government has proven time and again that it has failed to govern this country and take care of the people,” said Comrade Mhlonishwa.

Addressing the issue of unemployment was Central Committee Member, Comrade Sambulo Shongwe. In his address, Comrade Sambulo explained how the unemployment rate in the country has led to the working class resorting to things they would not do if they had real opportunities to develop themselves.

“It is a shame to see our sisters being forced into sex slavery by the regime. Our brothers engage in criminal activities due to the lack of employment for the youth, all of which are as a result of the failing tinkhundla system,” said Comrade Sambulo.

From New Village, the rally advanced to the community of Logoba, where CPS Central Committee Comrade Mlimi Makhubela addressed the people.



In his speech, Comrade Mlimi explained how the tinkhundla system as headed by the absolute monarchy exploits the people and how the people must organise for the total overthrow of the system.

"We need to first build two councils: the Security Council and the Welfare Council. These two Councils will help us develop our communities and help us to protect our communities," he said.

He explained further, "The Security Council will help us to protect our communities from Mswati's raids. The Welfare Council will help us develop our communities. These Councils will help us to maintain our health statuses without depending on Mswati's collapsed health system while we at the same organise for change."

Head of the Party's Youth and Students Commission, Comrade Bafanabakhe Sacolo, echoed Comrade Mlimi's words on the oppression of the people. He, however, cautioned the people about the risks of waiting and hoping for a "messiah" to lead them out of the tinkhundla regime's chains.

"We cannot wait for a coming messiah to free us from the oppressor, but we can only free ourselves. There's no one who will free us except ourselves," he stressed.

"Let us not forget, comrades, that nature does not allow a vacuum. If there is a space left unfilled, a counter element will fill it. The lack of political education among our people is then filled by such activities among the youth. As Che Guevara says, 'poverty gives birth to two things, either a Revolutionary or a criminal.' The only thing separating the two is consciousness," continued Comrade Bafanabakhe.

The leaders emphasised the CPS's vanguard role to educate the people and arm them with the best political education to ensure that the current tinkhundla crisis does not breed criminals but revolutionaries. Out of this poverty enforced by Mswati's government on the people of Swaziland must come revolutionaries rooted in the scientific approach to analysis of society and changing it.

The CPS has vowed to continue to deploy its activists in communities to help them gain revolutionary political consciousness, and so that they are ready to

govern and protect themselves against the Mswati autocracy.

The CPS held another rally the following evening, Sunday 21 August, in Fairview Manzini. These grassroots-based actions are helping to uplift the people to be agents of their own freedom. Community members in Fairview encouraged the Communist Party activists to deepen political education of the masses as a key element of the revolution.



# Give due honour to women revolutionaries, says CPS Treasurer General

By Tenanile



The 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the brutal assassination of the Communist Leader, Comrade Ruth First.

On 17 August 1982, Ruth First was assassinated by the apartheid regime using a parcel bomb while she was in exile in Mozambique.

Ruth First was a stalwart of the South African struggle for liberation and social emancipation in South Africa. She was also a Communist, a South African Communist Party (SACP) leader and former National Secretary of the Young Communist League of South Africa.

In honour of Comrade Ruth First, on Sunday 21 August 2022, the SACP held the inaugural Ruth First Memorial Lecture at the Johannesburg City Hall, the keynote speaker of which was SACP General Secretary, Comrade Solly Mapaila.

The Lecture was preceded by a march across the streets of Johannesburg, led by the SACP General Secretary.

The objective of the march was to raise awareness on the high level of gender-based violence taking place in South Africa, especially against women and children.

The march started at the Constitutional Hill and ended at the Johannesburg City Hall, where the inaugural Ruth First Memorial Lecture would take place.

Treasurer General of the Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS), Comrade Khethiwe Mabaso, joined and supported the march and also addressed the Lecture on behalf of the CPS.

Besides the CPS and the SACP's Young Communist League, the event was also attended by other fraternal organisations including the Palestine Embassy, Friends of Cuba, People's United Democratic

Movement, South African National Civic Organisation, Congress of South African Trade Unions, and the African National Congress.

"Comrades, as we are gathered here in remembrance of Comrade Ruth First, let us remember that she was a Communist, a gender transformation activist. She dedicated her life in the struggle for liberation, to eliminate racial oppression and class exploitation," said Comrade Khethiwe Mabaso, in her message of support during the Lecture.

She emphasised the need to honour women revolutionaries who contributed to liberation struggles.

"It is important, comrades, that as we fight against oppression by the Swazi regime, we also remember the role played by female comrades in the South African liberation struggle," she said.

"Women in Swaziland are still heavily oppressed. As we are fighting for freedom in Swaziland, we are calling for your solidarity as Communist cadres. Not that you should fight our battles, but we call for your support in making sure that we are fully equipped, materially and otherwise, to totally overthrow the oppressor, which is Mswati and the tinkhundla system", added Comrade Khethiwe.

## NO WOMAN, NO REVOLUTION!

# QUICK THOUGHT

## Boycott Mswati's *umhlanga* ritual

By Lwazi Maseko



system's oppressive tools is the *umhlanga* (reed dance) ceremony.

Let us boycott the *umhlanga* to save our younger sisters from being sexually abused by Mswati and his regiments.

It is now well known that during the *umhlanga* week, girls get raped by Mswati's regiments and soldiers. *Umhlanga* is no way of preserving culture, but a system used by Mswati to gather young maidens to parade them naked for his family and friends.

**BOYCOTT UMHLANGA!**  
**STOP ABUSING OUR SISTERS, MSWATI!**

**T**ime is running out for Mswati's regime. It can no longer sustain Mswati's excessive greed for gross exploitation of Swaziland's economy and its people.

Only a new order based on a fully democratic dispensation that involves all of the Swazi people as equal partners can be able to stop and reverse the ruin imposed in Swaziland by Mswati.

Let the Mswati autocracy face international isolation until tinkhundla is dismantled.

The impoverishment of the Swazi people and deepening of oppression through disease, hunger, lack of opportunity and gender inequality serve to deepen monarchic autocracy. This is supported by cultural activities, brute force and the systematic repression of political opposition and civil society.

The tinkhundla system is destroying the lives of the majority of the Swazi people. Tinkhundla has effectively declared war on the people through neglect and outright oppression by intentionally denying the people the chance to thrive and prosper by the fruits of their own labour and with full access to the resources of good health, full education and total access to the wealth of society to develop their potential.

With about 122 Nurses and doctors to each 100,000 people the country falls well below the ratio recommended by the World Health Organisation of 250 health professionals per 100,000 people. This shows that Mswati has failed to maintain Swazi people's health. He and his family have the tendency to seek medical attention outside the country while the majority have to face the collapsed health system.

Mswati will continue suppressing Swazi people until they stand up and overthrow the system. One of the