



On Your Marks! Set! Ready! Go!

CPS Annual Summer School begins



By Tenanile

It is once again time for the Communist Party of Swaziland's Annual Summer School. Scheduled to be held from 20-30 December 2022, this year's School will be held under the theme "The struggle for Democracy Now Must Win—Our Country Must Survive!"

The CPS Summer School is a national event held over ten days. It is always filled with intense analysis and reflection. It takes place during the summer holidays in December. Its aim is to analyse the strength of our struggle for freedom. It allows freedom of the expression of views from different Swazi and international activists on the struggle for freedom, democracy and socialism.

The Summer School is preceded by the Winter School, which is also a national event, held at the end of July each year, lasting a weekend. The CPS has consistently held both Schools since the Party's launch back in April 2011.

Due to the free exchange of views by participants,

along with the thorough theoretical analysis of the struggle and the situation in the country and the world, the Summer School always invokes great excitement among delegates. It also helps to reveal the fact that Swazis yearn to express their freedom, and thus the School presents a platform for them to freely share their experiences and views on different issues and on how our struggle can win.

Most activists, both Swazi and international, who have ever attended the CPS Summer share the same experience that once one attends, they are forever changed. While, at first, some may be reluctant to attend a political school during the festive season, through Christmas, most shake off this reluctance as soon as they have gone through their first session and felt the love and warmth of the Party and delegates.

In addition to the above, one who attends the CPS Summer School just once is forever changed. They can never be the same! While the intense study of the Marxist-Leninist philosophy may be scary and difficult at first, and in some instances directly question firmly held political, cultural and religious beliefs, among others, participants of the Summer School often appreciate the importance of philosophy and ideological development by the time they have to engage on the correct strategy and tactics as well as the proper understanding of various struggles such as gender, peasant, and proletariat struggles, among others.

Some of the products of the CPS political schools today include, in addition to members of the Party, many young leaders spread out across the mass democratic movement. These leaders have received intense training in CPS political schools, the CPS doing this not narrowly for itself but for the progressive movement as a whole. Remember, the CPS trains revolutionaries not necessarily for itself but for the movement and the revolution as a



CPS General Secretary, Comrade Thokozane Kunene, listen to a presentation during the CPS Winter School, 2022.

whole.

To those who will be participating, remember that, in every CPS political school, everyone is, and indeed must be, an active participant. There is no escaping this. In all CPS schools and study groups, everyone is, at one and the same time, a teacher and a learner. In order to learn, one must teach, and in order to teach, one must learn. There is thus a dialectical relationship between teaching and learning, as well as between the teacher and the learner. One who refuses to teach will never learn, and one who refuses to learn is forever incapable of teaching!

Some of the topics that are often covered during the CPS Summer School include the following:

1. **Philosophy.** Delegates analyse the material and historical roots of philosophy; what it is about and how it affects society at each given stage of development. They go on to thoroughly analyse the philosophy of the working class, that is liberatory philosophy, often known as Marxism-Leninism: the materialist conception of history and dialectics. They go on to analyse and distinguish between the various classes in our society, carefully unearthing their various economic and political interests and what this means for our struggle in Swaziland.
2. **Strategy and tactics.** Every revolutionary organisation and movement must have a good strategy, meaning a plan of action on how best they can achieve a long-term goal. There must also be relevant tactics as and when they are needed, based upon a scientific analysis of the concrete conditions at each given stage, where

the strategic plan has been carefully crafted for the achievement of freedom, democracy and socialism. These two (strategy and tactics) are analysed together because you cannot have a strategy without tactics, and tactics without a strategy.

3. **Analysis of gender struggles.** Delegates in this instance, consistently using the materialist approach (scientific socialism), also analyse gender struggles, including gender discrimination, gender-based violence and other gender-based crises that engulf our society. Delegates also seek solutions in this regard. Linked to the analysis of gender struggles is the analysis of LGBTQI+ struggles.
4. **Youth and students struggles.** Here, delegates unpack the struggles faced by students in different levels of education, from basic to higher education. Their issues are discussed and solutions brought to the table on how the students themselves, in collaboration with other members of society, can fight for the revolutionising of the education system as well as their society upon which the education system is anchored. Youth issues are also discussed on any different level and solutions are brought to hand.

The above is but a tip of the iceberg. Sounds interesting, right? Feel free to attend, share your views and opinions for the liberation of the country, as well as how you will actively contribute to the overthrow of the exploitative system and replacing it with a just system which shall end the subjugation of one by another.

If you are unable to attend this year, there is still an opportunity next year. But you need not necessarily wait that long. Join the Party's study groups, now spread across the country, and learn as you practically involve yourself in waging the struggle.

FOR FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM!

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Tenanile is a member of the CPS Media Unit..

State of the Peasantry under Tinkhundla Autocracy and its Relation to Poverty

By Bafanabakhe Sacolo and Khathula Madadase Mbiko

As the Communist Party of Swaziland conducts its final preparations for its 2022 Summer School, it is important to contribute a brief analysis of the peasant question in Swaziland, especially with regard to food security and nutrition. This is done with the full understanding that over 70 percent of the population of Swaziland lives in the rural areas and the survival of the majority is largely based on subsistence farming.

As such, the struggle for democracy must necessarily always consider the situation of the peasants.

Nutrition is a fundamental aspect in any society. Every society greatly depends on food production, in addition to the production of basic needs such as shelter and clothing. In Swaziland, the main producers of food are the peasants in the rural areas. They practice subsistence farming whereby they grow crops and animals to feed themselves and sell the surplus if the production is higher. For the most parts, heavy reliance in such production is on rain and oxen, although heavy machinery has greatly entered the frame.

Che Guevara, in his 1960 speech *On Revolutionary Medicine* said, “The principle upon which the fight against disease should be based is the creation of the robust body; but not the creation of a robust body by the artistic work of a doctor upon a weak organism; rather, the creation of a robust body with the work of the whole collectivity, upon the entire social collectivity.” This can be attained through proper nutrition which is the first medicine of any human. Living in a society engulfed by poverty will inevitably lead to low life expectancy, disease, high crime rate and many other social ills.

The objective of waging a revolution is to have a life with dignity. This gives our struggle its essence. Looking at the cost of living in Swaziland, which has risen to extremely high levels, shows that the cost of food production for peasants has risen enormously.

QUICK THOUGHT



This leads to peasants’ inability to produce adequate food; hence poverty can only be expected to prevail. Thus, peasants also have to fight for their freedom or else they will perish.

This is how the cost of producing maize and other crops doubled from last year. The cost of a 50kg bag of fertilizer rose from around E450.00 to around E1,250.00. The cost of a 5kg bag of maize seeds is around E500 and the cost of hiring a tractor for ploughing and other farm operations have risen from E250.00 to E550.00. The cost of farming was not affordable even before these drastic price increases. The increases have led to most peasants abandoning their fields as they could no longer acquire necessities for producing food for their families. This is thus contributing to the deepening of the proletarianization of the population as well as adding to the urban poor population as more and more flee to the cities and towns in search for employment.

As such, more families are becoming food insecure. This also means that there will be reduced food supply for young children and elderly citizens of the country, leading to an increase in malnutrition. The money that came from the surplus produce was previously used to send children to school and satisfy other needs, including shelter and clothing for many families. Due to the chronic

failures of the Mswati autocracy, however, the country will continue to experience worse conditions of poverty, which will bring along more social ills.

It is thus important, and urgent, for the advancement of the struggle for democracy, that Communist activists triple their efforts to organise peasants and educate them about the revolution. With the majority of the population of Swaziland living in the countryside, the peasants experiencing deep oppression by the tinkhundla regime, this means that peasants are the largest group who will enjoy the fruits of freedom. Therefore, the people must unite and crush this evil regime. Without our freedom, we will perish.

The tinkhundla system is used by the monarchy and its puppet chiefs to easily accumulate wealth through selfish gains by hook or crook. Through this system, they have brutalised, maligned and subjected the people of Swaziland to unjust and terrible conditions. Whilst Mswati and his family enjoy the wealth of the country, the majority of the population have to endure a virtually destroyed health system, education system and economic system.

While poverty remains a daily reality for the majority of the people, Mswati still has the audacity to host luxurious self-aggrandising events such as *Umhlanga*, *Buganu*, his birthday parties and other events which drain the economy even more. This must be stopped. All progressive forces in Swaziland must form a united and decisive force that will crush the tinkhundla system and go on to establish a new social—political and economic—order that will support the interests of the people of Swaziland as a whole.

In addition, democracy must be anchored on peace and harmony. All of this is possible, but it needs people with vibrant intellectual impulses sensitive to the economic and political transformation of Swaziland for



Comrade Bafanabakhe Sacolo making a presentation during the CPS Winter School 2022.

democracy to prevail. This is possible, and indeed will be a reality with the people's action.

Down with the tinkhundla system!

Forward to democratic victory in Swaziland!

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