



# Workers of the World, Unite!

## Against imperialism, against national oppression

**T**he Communist Party of Swaziland, alongside the working class and mass democratic movement, has engaged in many revolutionary activities since the release of our [LICINISO Issue 17 Quarterly](#). These were actions inside and outside Swaziland where the Party actively participated in solidarity actions. This publication takes stock of those activities.

### UNITY WITH WORKERS IN THEIR STRUGGLES AND AGAINST UNION BASHING

**T**he ruling autocracy is intensifying its union bashing, aiming to weaken unions and worker unity in various ways. It has been doing this since 12 April 1973 when Sobhuza II imposed absolute-monarchy rule on the people with direct political and financial support from the racist apartheid regime of South Africa.

Following up on its [divide-and-rule tactic](#) to pay a three percent cost of living adjustment only to workers who were [not members](#) of public sector unions, the government continued attacking Mbongwa Dlamini, the President of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT).

Public sector unions include the National Public Service and Allied Workers Union (NAPSAWU), Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT), Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union (SWADNU) and Swaziland National Association of Government Accounting Personnel (SNAGAP). Out of 42,686 civil servants in Swaziland, these unions collectively have about 22,117 members.

Workers braved the heavy rains to protest against union bashing on 31 October 2022 in the capital, Mbabane, next to the ministry of education.

Addressing the action, CPS National Organising Secretary, Simphiwe Dlamini, warned that an attack of the SNAT President is at the same time an attack on the union and the right to unionise.

“It would be a betrayal,” the CPS National Organiser stated, “if members of SNAT [and all other unions] would act normal when things are not normal in this



country. With these latest attacks on Comrade Mbongwa, the regime is actually testing the strength and unity of the workers. Next, they are coming for each and every one of us.”

He went on to rally the workers to be actively involved in the struggle for total change in the country and to assume their leading position in the revolution.

“Let us remember, comrades,” he continued, “that, before we are workers, we are members of society and as members of society we are the producers of the economy as workers.”

The wrestling of political power is crucial for the working class to rid the country of the backward tinkhundla system – a capitalist system with feudalist elements.

In this regard, the National Organiser added, “The first thing we need to do is to take political power. We need to take power away from this royal family. We must assert our right to freedom of speech, association, and assembly.”

In line with the CPS’s campaign to deepen and broaden class consciousness as broadly as necessary, he also encouraged teachers to do whatever they can to introduce liberatory education to learners, for the revolution needs everyone to participate.

He thus concluded that “all the problems in our country will be solved by the liberation of the people. Towards that, we must organise all our communities to boycott the tinkhundla elections. All those who will seek to sustain the enemy by participating in its elections must be target-



*Comrades braving the rain and cold in solidarity with workers organised under SWATCAWU.*



ed. We need total change in this country and not just cosmetic changes.”

The CPS in its LICINISO *Issue 17* Quarterly gave clear [reasons](#) why the people of Swaziland must reject the 2023 tinkhundla elections – and indeed all forms of tinkhundla elections – and what needs to be done to ensure that Mswati’s elections fail. This is an important pamphlet that activists must continually revisit as the campaign against tinkhundla elections continues.

**W**orkers’ protests are spreading far and wide each and every day in Swaziland.

The CPS on 18 October joined [security workers](#) to deliver a petition demanding their back-pays. As always, Mswati’s armed forces dispersed the peaceful protesting workers by firing teargas, rubber bullets and live ammunition at the workers. The workers are organised under the Swaziland Amalgamated Trade Union (SATU).

On 19 October 2022, University of Swaziland (UNISWA) staff members from all three campuses (Kwaluseni, Mbabane, Luyengo) engaged in a lunch-hour protest to raise their grievances to the university administration.

This was yet another lunch-hour protest in a series of protests that had been undergoing for months at the



*Against union bashing. CPS National Organising Secretary, Simphiwe Dlamini, at the SNAT march in solidarity with SNAT President, Mbongwa Dlamini, and against union bashing by the Mswati autocracy.*

university.

The 19 October protest intensified after the university issued a communication to workers that their salaries would be delayed. The administration blamed the delays on “financial problems” faced by the institution.

The financial crisis facing the university has lasted for years and is a direct result of tinkhundla government failure.

In addition to the demand for their salaries, the workers also demanded a cost-of-living adjustment as well as payment of staff medical aid and commuting allowances.

The crisis in the education sector and in the public enterprises keeps deepening each day.

The CPS stands in solidarity with the workers.

In support of the workers’ demands, the CPS called for workers to unite and fight for democracy: that their freedom will only come when the tyrant has been overthrown and a new democratic system established, rooted in people’s power.

**A**midst all the protests, CPS activists were able to find time to make their contribution to the theoretical understanding of the struggle. They joined the Mbabane branch of the Swaziland National Union of Students in its political school on Thursday evening, 27 October 2022.

The political school focused on “Understanding Women and LGBTIQ+ rights.” The analysis of the subject was rooted in Marxism-Leninism (scientific socialism). To learn more about this most advanced [revolutionary theory](#), study Frederick Engels’s [Socialism: Utopian and Scientific](#).”

In the political school, Mapezu Kunene from ESGM unpacked the question of LGBTIQ+ rights while UNISWA Kwaluseni Campus Chairperson, Gabiey





*Mapezu Kunene presenting at the SNUS Mbabane branch political school.*



*Gabiey Ndukuya presenting at the SNUS Mbabane branch political school.*

Ndukuya, unpacked the Woman Question.

The political school was a vibrant session which attracted direct engagement from participants. It formed part of the nationwide campaign to strengthen the mass progressive movement in the context of mobilising for the struggle for freedom in Swaziland.

The CPS fully supports the struggle for gender equality. The Party is fully involved in campaigns for the end of patriarchy and homophobia – and all other prejudices. These campaigns are in the context of the struggle against the tinkhundla system.

**I**n another picket on 31 October 2022, at Oshoek at the Parson Company depot, the CPS joined truck drivers organised under the Swaziland Transport Communication and Allied Workers Union (SWATCAWU). The workers were making a follow-up on the petition that they delivered early September this year. Since the employer was proving unreasonably difficult and arrogant, the workers decided to stop operations in the company, locking in all the trucks in the depot for the duration of the picket.

**O**n 2 November 2022, workers from Fidelity Security Company, organised under the banner of SATU, protested over delayed salaries and shortage of uniform, among other demands. These issues have been ongoing for the past three months, hence the decision by the workers to down tools and confront the management of Fidelity in Matsapha.

The CPS joined the workers' protest in solidarity.

A worker speaking on the sidelines of the march elaborated on the matter. "We tried going to work and some of us received messages on our phones that we should no longer come to work. When we followed up,

we were informed that SPTC, the telecommunications company to which Fidelity Security Company provides security services, had not paid Fidelity. We received that information on 17 August 2022. And that was it. Since then, we have been in the dark on what is to happen. They have not even paid terminal benefits."

**T**he trade union movement, on 26 October 2022, learned of the death of Meshack Kati Masuku, former president of SNAT. In 1997, SNAT shook the foundations of the system when he led teachers on a long strike action in demand for better pay.

The night vigil and funeral of the respected former unionist were held on 5 and 6 November 2022, respectively, in his home at Makhonza, Nhlangano.

During the night vigil, CPS National Commissar, Titus Vilakati, offered condolences to the family on behalf of the Party.

In his address, the Commissar emphasised the need to totally dismantle the tinkhundla system as the primary point to solving all the problems faced by the people in Swaziland.

"Tomorrow, comrades, when Mswati is no longer in power, we will ask what you did when the people's struggle was ongoing," stated the Commissar.

"We will also pose this question on those who are today killing the people," he continued, "and those will include the police and army commanders."

The Commissar also clarified that the money that workers fight for belongs to the people and not to Mswati. He also pointed out the reality of steeply rising food prices, affecting the working class and poor, while Mswati and his family enjoy their luxurious lifestyle at the expense of the poor masses of our country.

"We see how women, in particular, are heavily affected by rising food prices. They can no longer afford their



basic needs,” Titus told the mourners.

“The solution,” the Commissar concluded, “is to overthrow the ruling tinkhundla system now.”



## A FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FOR WESTERN SAHARA

**T**he CPS continued to make its voice heard in the international struggle against imperialism, offering its solidarity to the people of Western Sahara, whose land is



*CPS International Secretary, Pius Vilakati, with Western Saharan Ambassador, Mohamed Yeslem Beisat Deich.*

still occupied by Morocco.

On 17 October 2022, CPS International Secretary, Pius Vilakati, joined a solidarity march led by the South African mass democratic movement. The march commenced at the Union Buildings in Pretoria and ended at the Moroccan embassy where a petition was read out.

Western Sahara is Africa's last colony. It is colonised by Morocco. The Moroccan government uses extreme brutality to suppress the people of Western Sahara. Western Sahara was occupied by Spain until 1975.

Speaking at the action in front of the Moroccan embassy, the International Secretary reaffirmed the Party's solidarity with the people of Western Sahara in their fight for self-determination.

He added, “We say this knowing that Mswati is a friend of Morocco and fully supports its colonial policy on Western Sahara. Mswati is also a friend of apartheid Israel in the subjugation of the people of Palestine. He is also a friend of the separatists of Taiwan, the province of China, and in doing so is actively supporting the USA's imperialist programme to destabilise China. The USA, together with Taiwan and Israel, financially and materially support the tinkhundla regime – as did apartheid South Africa – in order to maintain Swaziland as an ally of Israel, Taiwan and Morocco.”

He concluded by giving the international context of the Swazi struggle, stating that, “our struggle in Swaziland is at one and the same time a struggle against imperialism. We want to establish a democratic Swaziland which will be free from imperialist control. We are fighting to dismantle that puppet of imperialism (tinkhundla system) and build a truly democratic Swaziland under the firm control of the people.”



## THE WORLD STANDS WITH CUBA, AGAINST US IMPERIALISM



*CPS General Secretary presenting the Party's message at the IMCWP in Havana (left). CPS GS viewing Commander Fidel Castro's personal tools kept in the Fidel Castro Centre (right).*



On Thursday 3 November 2022, for the 30<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to condemn the United States government's blockade of Cuba which has lasted for over six decades.

Over 185 countries supported the vote, calling for the US government to stop the blockade, while the US government only received support from its apartheid ally, Israel.

Each year, the US government, the real state sponsor of terrorism against Cuban people, escalates the siege around Cuba, imposing inhumane conditions, with the intention to remove its people-driven system and impose its racist, capitalist system. The illegal blockade has translated to losses amounting to over US\$154 billion since its illegal imposition, in addition to other inhumane consequences.

Despite the seemingly unending blockade, the Cuban people have remained strong and defended their country and socialist system. Their people-centred system has established healthcare and education systems which rank as among the best in the world. Their efforts have translated to a life expectancy that is even higher than the imperialist USA, in addition to many other gains.

Cuba continues to be a shining inspiration to all justice-loving people of the world in the implementation of its people-centred system, the socialist system,

which has ensured enduring health despite the US driven blockade.

In his [remarks](#) to the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties (IMCWP), held in Havana, Cuba (27-29 October 2022) on behalf of the Party, CPS General Secretary Comrade Thokozane Kenneth Kunene assured the Cuban people of the CPS's unquestionable solidarity.

The General Secretary stated that the "living, existing presence of Cuba and the great record of the achievements of its people are one of the few remaining inspirations for people struggling today to rid themselves of capitalist and feudal oppression. This is especially so for us, the CPS, in our struggle for democracy and freedom in our country, Swaziland."

"To develop our solidarity work with Cuba," continued the General Secretary, "we need to conduct effective education campaigns so that the lessons of Cuba become actual tools in our own struggle."

The CPS will continue to build and participate in practical solidarity efforts meant to defend the people of Cuba against imperialist aggression, to affirm their right to self-determination and safeguard their country's national sovereignty.

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Other activities in which the Communist Party participated are discoverable in the Party's [Facebook page](#).

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