



LICINISO



**THE YEAR FOR MASS MOBILIZATION FOR FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY IN SWAZILAND**



**RELEASE CDE BONGO AND ALL
POLITICAL PRISONERS**

Contact us:



**CPS ON TAIWAN'S POLITICAL
MANOEUVRING IN AFRICA AS
SADC DEPLOYS SWAZILAND
TO HEAD THE PEACE AND
SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE
AU**



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FREEDOM- DEMOCRACY - SOCIALISM

Communist Party of Swaziland Declares 2025 The Year for Mass Mobilisation for Freedom and Democracy in Swaziland

The Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) declares the year 2025 as a pivotal year for **Mass Mobilisation** to achieve true democracy in our beloved country. For far too long, the people of Swaziland have endured a political system that prioritises the interests of a selected few over the rights and aspirations of the majority. We recognise the imperative need for a revolutionary change that empower the people and dismantle the oppressive structures that have long hindered progress in our society.

The CPS is calling upon the entire oppressed people of Swaziland and in the diaspora to engage in decisive mass mobilization aimed at achieving true democracy in Swaziland. This initiative is rooted in the belief that a democratic system is essential for the empowerment of the people and the development of our country.

Our country has faced significant political challenges, including lack of democratic representation and ongoing human rights violations. The CPS recognizes that the current political landscape is not conducive to the aspirations of the Swazi people, who seek a government that is accountable, transparent, and representative of their needs.

The struggle for freedom and democracy has faced numerous challenges. The legacy of colonialism, compounded by decades of autocratic rule and monarchic dictatorship, have left deep scars on our society. The monarchy has maintained a tight grip on power, stifling dissent and suppressing the voices of the people. This declaration is not merely a response to the current grievances, but a continuation of the struggle for liberation that has defined our painful history.

The monarchy has historically positioned itself as the ultimate authority, often disregarding the will of the people. Decisions affecting the lives of the ordinary citizens are made without their input, leading to widespread discontent. The lack of political representation and accountability has fostered an environment of fear and depression where dissent is met with harsh consequences.

Economic disparities have further exacerbated the

plight of the working class and poor. A small elite controls the majority of resources while the masses struggle to meet basic needs. Economic injustice is intertwined with our political struggles; true democracy cannot flourish in our society marked by economic oppression.

The systematic marginalisation of various groups, including women, youth, rural and urban poor communities has led to social fragmentation that has reached appalling levels. This situation is a deliberate tactic used by the monarchy to maintain control and prevent collective action. By mobilisation, we are building a movement that seeks to bridge these divides, fostering solidarity amongst all the oppressed people regardless of gender, sex, age or geographic location.

THE TASK

Promotion of Democratic Values and empower the oppressed people

The CPS aims to promote democratic values by advocating for a political system that genuinely reflects the will of the people. This includes pushing for a true democratic framework that establishes and guarantees civil liberties and political rights and freedoms as imperative for democracy.

Encourage active political participation in political affairs and processes, and initiatives to foster a culture of revolution as the principal facilitator of democracy and socialism.

Unity Among the People

The CPS emphasizes the importance of unity among various organisations, including trade unions, student organizations, women's organisations, and other civil society and political formations to form a powerful coalition for democratic change.

Facilitate discussions between different organisations and communities to build understanding and support for a common democratic agenda.

Awareness Campaigns

Conduct extensive awareness campaigns to educate people about their rights, the principles of democracy and socialism and the mechanisms through which they can effect change and challenge the status quo.

Use social media, community radio, and public forums to disseminate information and engage the populace in discussions about democratic governance.

Mobilisation Activities

Plan and execute rallies, workshops, protests and community meetings to galvanize mass support and encourage active participation in the democratisation process.

Support and empower grassroots movements that advocate for political change, social justice, and human rights.

Challenge Oppression

Actively confront and resist all forms of political repression and injustice. We should refuse to be silenced, we must stand together against intimidation and violence by the Mswati dictatorship and its tinkhundla autocracy.

Build Alliances

Collaborate with other progressive organisations to strengthen our cause and build a revolutionary front against the autocracy and for the establishment of a true democracy in our country.

Fight for Economic Justice

Fight against all forms of exploitation, economic exclusion and financial marginalisation. Advocate for policies that address economic disparities and promote equitable distribution of resources.

Foster Cultural Awareness

Celebrate and promote the true culture and heritage of our society and heroic struggles of the people.

Support Women's Rights

Ensure that women play a central role in the Party and our Movement for gender and equality in all spheres of society. Women are key agents of change and must be empowered to lead.

Engage the Youth

Mobilise the youth to express their views and participate in decision making processes. The youth hold the future and must be active in shaping it.

Promote Environmental Justice

Address the environmental challenges facing our country. Environmental decay disproportionately affects the poor and thus the fight for democracy must include ecological justice.

Education, Health and Wellbeing

Promote access to quality healthcare for all citizens. A healthy and educated population is our goal and we will work to ensure that education and healthcare are recognised as fundamental human rights and must be accessed by all.

International Solidarity:

Engage with international organizations, NGOs, and solidarity movements to garner support for the struggle for democracy in Swaziland

Raise awareness on global platforms about the political situation in Swaziland to attract international attention and pressure for change.

CALL TO ACTION

Join the Democracy Movement: The CPS invites all citizens, organizations and activists to participate in the mobilization efforts. Every voice matters and collective action is essential for achieving democracy in our country.

Engagement: People are encouraged to express their concerns and aspirations for a democratic future. This can be done through community meetings, social media, and other platforms where dialogue is encouraged.

Support: Seek support from international allies and organizations that champion democracy and human rights. Building a network of support can amplify the voices of fighting for change.

CONCLUSION

The Communist Party of Swaziland believes that through collective action and unwavering commitment, 2025 can be a pivotal year for achieving true democracy in Swaziland. This call to decisive mass mobilization is not just a political strategy; it is a movement for justice, equality, and the empowerment of the Swazi people.

The CPS urges everyone to contribute to this journey, as the future of democracy in Swaziland depends on the active participation and solidarity of the people. Together, we can build a society that reflects the values of freedom, social justice, and equality for all.

The time for democracy in Swaziland is now. We must unite and make this last fight for our future a symbolic success. Our struggle is not just for political power, it is for the dignity and rights of every individual in our country. The struggle for democracy is not a walk in the park. We will face resistance from those who benefit from the dictatorship. We stand firm, courageous and determined that no force can withstand our resolve when united.

Forward to Mass Mobilisation!

Forward to Freedom and Democracy!

Long Live the CPS!

Forward to the United Front!

Forward to Socialism!

CPS member Bonginkhosi 'Bongo' Nkhambule completes one year of incarceration

CPS demands his immediate release!



The 10th of January 2025 signifies a full year since comrade Bonginkhosi Bongo Nkhambule was apprehended by the authorities of Mswati in the vicinity of Mbabane. He has been unjustly detained in confinement for a duration of one year, a deliberate tactic employed by the tinkhundla regime to uphold its parasitic authority.

He is one of numerous political prisoners incarcerated as part of the regime's strategy to suppress democratic demands from the people of Swaziland. The regime has resorted to various oppressive measures, including violence, torture, abduction, and arbitrary arrests to cling to power. These tactics have ensnared Cde Bongo, who now finds himself inside Mswati's prisons.

Upon his apprehension, he was charged with two offenses under the Suppression of Terrorism Act, alleging his involvement in the incineration of a police vehicle and a national flag during a student-led protest for Jobs and Scholarships for all. Despite multiple bail denials, no substantial evidence has substantiated the accusations. Within the confines of his prison cell, he endures deplorable conditions marked by torture, inadequate provisions of food, clothing, blankets, and medical care.

Cde Bonginkhosi played a pivotal role in the struggles of the working class of Swaziland, actively participating in movements across various sectors including students, peasants, urban poor, workers, women, and marginalized groups. Despite facing unemployment and harsh living conditions, he also fulfilled his responsibilities as a provider for his family.

The CPS strongly condemns this action and demands the immediate release of Cde Bonginkhosi

and all other political prisoners. Additionally, the CPS supports the Break the Chains Campaign, which calls for; unbanning of all political parties, the release of all political prisoners and the safe return of all political exiles.

The CPS reiterates its call for 2025 to be a year of widespread mobilization and invites all citizens, organizations, and activists to join in this effort. As long as the oppressive Tinkhundla regime exists in Swaziland, it will not enjoy peace until the people of Swaziland are free.

#ReleaseBongo

#UnbanPoliticalPrisoners

#ReleaseAllPoliticalPrisoners

#SafeReturnOfAllPoliticalExiles

CPS on Taiwan's Political Manoeuvring in Africa as SADC deploys Swaziland to head the Peace and Security Council of the AU

The Communist Party of Swaziland reflections on the recent developments regarding Taiwan's recognition in the African Union (AU) through the Southern African Development Community (SADC) lobby group raise significant concerns about international relations, sovereignty, and the implications of foreign influence in African politics. This situation is multifaceted and warrants a comprehensive examination of its various dimensions. By appointing the autocratic regime of Swaziland to head the Peace and Security Council of the African Union is directly placing the illegitimate Taiwan to regain political position in Africa. A shameful decision that the AU has taken which SADC has patiently arranged.

TAIWAN'S ROGUE ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICAL STATUS IN AFRICA

Strategic Diplomatic Efforts

Taiwan's efforts to regain recognition in the AU represent a calculated move to expand its diplomatic reach, particularly in regions that have historically aligned with the One China policy. By leveraging support from the SADC, Taiwan seeks to establish itself as a legitimate player in African affairs, thereby challenging the dominant narrative that favours the People's Republic of China.

Implications for AU Policies

The AU has traditionally upheld the One China policy, which recognises the People's Republic of China (PRC) as the sole legal government of China. Taiwan's recognition disrupts this consensus and could lead to a fracturing of diplomatic relations among African nations, potentially encouraging other nations to reconsider their stances on Taiwan.

SWAZILAND'S ROLE IN THE GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE

The Mswati Regime

Under the illegitimate leadership of King Mswati III, Swaziland operates as an absolute monarchy. This regime's sole alignment with Taiwan places it in a unique position within the AU, particularly as it assumes the lead of the AU Peace and Security Council. The autocratic nature of Mswati's rule raises questions about the legitimacy of Swaziland's representation on such a critical platform. Worse, it now brings along the

Taiwan scandal.

Military and State Security Control

Taiwan's influence over Swaziland's military and state security apparatus suggests a deeper level of involvement than mere diplomatic recognition. This control is equivalent to a form of neo-colonialism, where Taiwan utilises Swaziland as a pawn to further its interests in Africa, undermining the sovereignty of the Swazi people.

CONSEQUENCES FOR AFRICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE

Imperialism vs. Independence

The decision to allow Taiwan to leverage Swaziland for its political gains poses a significant threat to the continent's independence from imperialist influences. This situation mirrors historical patterns of foreign powers exploiting local governance structures for their gain, raising alarms about the potential for a return to neo-colonial practices.

Backlash Against the People of Africa

The ramifications of these political decisions often disproportionately affect local populations. In Swaziland, the oppressed citizens may face increased repression as the ruling elites align themselves with foreign powers, prioritising external political gains over the welfare of their own people. This dynamic fosters a climate of disenfranchisement and frustration among the populace as the Mswati regime and its colonial Taiwan administration will use this go-ahead to increase repression in Swaziland.

GLOBAL PEACE MOVEMENT AND POLITICAL POLARISATION

Right-Wing Celebrations

The support from right-wing factions for Taiwan's manoeuvres in Africa indicates a troubling trend within the global peace movement. While some may celebrate Taiwan's strategic political victory, it is essential to recognise that such developments can exacerbate existing tensions and undermine efforts toward genuine peace and stability in the region and the continent as a whole.

Mobilisation for Democracy

The CPS believes that this successful manoeuvre will not deter the forces for democracy in Swaziland, but instead this must invite a more decisive action to end the

system that has harboured illegitimate Taiwan in our country which has now spread to a continental political nuisance. The pro democracy movement has to play a crucial role in advocating for true democracy and opposing foreign manipulation of local politics as part and parcel of the content of the struggle for democracy in Swaziland. The efforts to mobilise the oppressed people against the Mswati autocracy which serves the monarchy, political elite and foreign interests are vital for fostering a political environment conducive to genuine democratic popular governance in Swaziland.

THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS FOR AFRICAN UNITY – THIS IS A POLITICAL SCANDAL

Fragmentation of Unity

The increasing influence of external powers like the illegitimate Taiwan administration could widen fragmentation of African unity. Countries are divided over issues of allegiance, with some aligning with Taiwan (disguised as respect of sovereign state of Swaziland whilst turning a blind eye on its true nature as an imperialist pawn regime under the management of Taiwan) while others remain committed to the One China policy which fosters world peace and progress. This division could weaken collective bargaining power on the international stage and hinder efforts to address pressing continental issues and the pawn Mswati regime is hosting this crisis because SADC gives a greenlight at the expense of African majority populace and embarrass the region.

Future of African Sovereignty

The situation in Swaziland serves as a cautionary tale about the fragility of African sovereignty in the face of external pressures. It underscores the need for a concerted effort among African nations to resist neo-colonial influences and prioritise the interests of their citizens over those of foreign powers.

CONCLUSION

The dynamics between Taiwan, Swaziland, and the broader African political landscape highlight the complexities of international relations in a post-colonial context of Africa. The struggle for true democracy in Swaziland has been advanced under complex conditions led by underground and banned political parties expressed through the resistance movements, remains vital for both national sovereignty and the integrity of the global peace movement. Continued mobilisation and awareness are essential in countering neo-colonial influences and advocating for the rights of oppressed peoples, but more importantly, the movement must gain an offensive position by imposing direct action against

the absolute monarchy and tinkhundla dictatorship.

As the situation evolves, it is imperative for African nations to engage in critical dialogue about their relationships with external powers and to reaffirm their commitment to sovereignty, independence, and the well-being of their citizens. Only through collective action and solidarity can Africa navigate the challenges posed by foreign influence and work towards a future that prioritises true democratic governance and social justice. The Swaziland democracy movement is quickly orienting itself to these international realities as it seeks to resolve the immediate crisis faced in our country.

CPS Analysis of the Impact of Opportunism in the Pro-Democracy Movement in Swaziland

INTRODUCTION

The struggle for democracy in Swaziland has been a long and arduous journey, marked by the resilience of the people and the challenges posed by an entrenched monarchy backed by Imperialism. The pro-democracy movement, comprising various political parties, civil society organizations, and grassroots activists, seeks to dismantle the absolute monarchy and establish a democratic governance framework. However, the presence of opportunism defined as the practice of taking advantage of circumstances with little regard for principles, has significantly influenced the trajectory of this struggle. This analysis delves deeper into the impact of opportunism on the pro-democracy movement, examining its historical context, manifestations, consequences, and potential strategies for overcoming these challenges.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Political Landscape

Swaziland has been governed as an absolute monarchy since 1973, 5 years after the sham independence from Britain in 1968. The political environment has been characterised by the suppression of dissent, with political parties banned since 1973. This has created a climate of fear and repression, making it difficult for organised opposition to emerge. Despite these challenges, various groups have sought to advocate for change, leading to the formation of pro-democracy movements in defiance of the banning.

Formation of Pro-Democracy Movements

In response to the oppressive political climate, several pro-democracy organisations constituting underground political parties, trade unions, student organisations, faith based organisations, human rights organisations, social movements and NGOs, community groups amongst others.

These organisations have played a crucial role in mobilizing the oppressed people and advocating for democratic change, despite the risks associated with dissent.

Opportunism in the Pro-Democracy Movement

1. Definition and Characteristics

Opportunism within the pro-democracy movement can be characterized by several key traits:

“The focus on opportunistic gains diverts attention from the broader vision of a democratic Swaziland. Without a clear and consistent ideological framework, the movement risks losing its direction and purpose. This lack of vision leads to disillusionment among supporters, who question the effectiveness of their efforts.”

Self-Serving Actions: Individuals or factions within the movement may prioritize their personal or political gain over the collective goals of the movement, leading to actions that do not align with the broader struggle for democracy. This can manifest in leaders seeking personal recognition or power at the expense of the movement's integrity.

Shifting Alliances: Members change their positions or alliances based on perceived benefits, rather than adhering to a consistent ideological framework. This creates instability and unpredictability within the movement, making it difficult to forge lasting coalitions and collaboration.

2. Impact on Unity

Fragmentation: Opportunistic behaviour has led to divisions within the pro-democracy movement, weakening its overall effectiveness. Different factions pursue divergent agendas, making it difficult to present a united front against the monarchy and its dictatorship. This fragmentation results in competing narratives that confuse the public and undermine trust in the movement.

Distrust: The presence of opportunism fosters an environment of suspicion among members, undermining collaboration and solidarity. When individuals perceive that others are acting out of self-interest, it leads to a breakdown of communication and cooperation, essential elements for any successful movement.

3. Political Manipulation

Exploitation of Public Sentiment: Some leaders or factions exploit popular discontent for their personal gain. This leads to a focus on short-term victories, such as gaining media attention or public support, rather than pursuing long-term democratic goals. Such actions create a

cycle of temporary gains that do not contribute to meaningful change.

Co-opting Movements: Opportunistic leaders may co-opt grassroots movements to further their personal agendas. This co-optation can dilute the original goals of the movement, causing frustration among grassroots supporters who feel their voices are being overshadowed. Over time, this has led to a loss of legitimacy for the leadership and the regime relies on co-option of opportunists to defeat the movement. Other organisations have even adopted a principle to produce opportunists that feed the regime with 'cadres' to serve the regime against the people and the struggle. The organisations call this co-option a deployment.

4. Challenges to Ideological Integrity

Compromised Principles: The pursuit of power can lead to compromises on core democratic principles. Opportunistic leaders adopt populist rhetoric or policies that do not align with the foundational values of democracy in order to gain support. This shift alienates dedicated activists who are committed to the original ideals of the movement.

Loss of Vision: The focus on opportunistic gains diverts attention from the broader vision of a democratic Swaziland. Without a clear and consistent ideological framework, the movement risks losing its direction and purpose. This lack of vision leads to disillusionment among supporters, who question the effectiveness of their efforts.

5. Socio-Economic Factors

Poverty and Inequality: The socio-economic context in Swaziland, characterized by high levels of poverty and inequality, creates fertile ground for opportunism. Some leaders may exploit economic grievances to gain support, but without addressing the root causes, such actions can lead to disillusionment and further fragmentation. Economic hardship can make individuals more susceptible to opportunistic rhetoric, as they seek immediate solutions to their pressing needs.

Youth Engagement: The youth, often at the forefront of pro-democracy movements, is particularly susceptible to opportunistic rhetoric. Young activists are drawn to charismatic leaders who promise quick fixes but fail to deliver substantive change. If leaders fail to provide genuine solutions to their concerns, young activists become disenchanted, leading to a loss of momentum for the movement.

6. External Influences

International Dynamics: The pro-democracy movement in Swaziland is also influenced by external fac-

tors, including international pressure for democratic reforms. Opportunistic leaders may leverage international support to bolster their own positions, often without a genuine commitment to democratic principles. This creates a disconnect between the movement's goals and the actions of its leaders.

Diaspora Engagement: The Swazi diaspora plays a significant role in supporting the pro-democracy movement. However, opportunism manifests in the exploitation of diaspora resources, with some leaders seeking financial support without a clear plan for how those resources will be used to advance the cause of democracy.

Some illustrations

1. Internal Conflicts

Historical instances of infighting within parties have highlighted how opportunistic behaviour can derail collective efforts. For example, leadership struggles and factionalism have often resulted in public disputes that weaken the movement's credibility. In some cases, rival factions have engaged in smear campaigns against one another, further fracturing the movement and distracting from the overarching goal of achieving democracy.

2. Election Manipulations

Attempts to influence election outcomes for personal gain have been observed, complicating the path to genuine democratic reforms. Opportunistic candidates may prioritize their electoral success over the integrity of the democratic process, leading to disillusionment among voters. This manipulation manifests in various forms, such as vote-buying, misinformation campaigns, or the suppression of dissenting voices, all of which undermine the legitimacy of the electoral process within organisations.

3. Grassroots Movements and Opportunism

Grassroots movements in Swaziland have often emerged in response to local issues, such as land disputes, unemployment, and access to education. However, opportunistic leaders seek to capitalise on these grassroots efforts for their own gain, diverting attention from the original goals of the movement. For instance, a leader might co-opt a local protest to gain political capital, ultimately undermining the grassroots nature of the movement.

CONCLUSION

The impact of opportunism on the pro-democracy movement in Swaziland is profound and multifaceted. It contributes to fragmentation, distrust, and a dilution of democratic ideals, ultimately hindering the movement's effectiveness. The presence of opportunistic behaviour erodes public confidence in the movement, making it difficult to mobilize support for democratic reforms. For the

pro-democracy movement to succeed, it is crucial to address these opportunistic tendencies and foster unity and commitment to the principles of democracy.

The Communist Party of Swaziland, along with other pro-democracy entities, must prioritize collective goals over individual ambitions to effectively challenge the existing political order and promote genuine democratic change. This requires a concerted effort to rebuild trust, establish clear ideological frameworks, and engage meaningfully with the diverse voices within the movement.

The Tasks ahead

1. Strengthening Unity

The CPS encourages dialogue and collaboration among different factions to rebuild trust and a shared vision. Regular meetings and joint initiatives can help bridge divides and foster a sense of collective purpose. Establishing a coalition of pro-democracy groups can create a more formidable front against the monarchy, allowing for coordinated actions and messaging.

2. Promoting Ideological Education

Reinforce the principles of democracy and socialism within the movement to counteract opportunistic tendencies. Educational programs, workshops, and seminars can help instil a strong ideological foundation among members. By fostering a shared understanding of democratic values, the movement can cultivate a more committed and informed base.

3. Accountability Mechanisms

Establish frameworks to hold leaders accountable for their actions and ensure alignment with the movement's goals. This could include transparent decision-making processes, regular assessments of leaders' performance against the movement's objectives, and mechanisms for grassroots feedback. Accountability measures can help mitigate opportunistic behaviour by ensuring that leaders remain focused on the collective goals of the movement.

4. Engaging the Youth

Develop targeted outreach programs to engage young activists and address their concerns. Empowering the youth to take leadership roles invigorates the movement and ensures that it remains relevant to the needs of the oppressed. Initiatives such as mentorship programs, youth-led campaigns, and platforms for youth voices can enhance participation and commitment among younger generations.

5. Building Grassroots Support

Focus on grassroots mobilization efforts that priori-

"Some leaders or factions exploit popular discontent for their personal gain. This leads to a focus on short-term victories, such as gaining media attention or public support, rather than pursuing long-term democratic goals. Such actions create a cycle of temporary gains that do not contribute to meaningful change."

tize community needs and concerns. By addressing local issues and fostering a sense of ownership among community members, the movement can build a more robust support base. This grassroots engagement will also serve to counteract opportunism by ensuring that the movement remains rooted in the needs and aspirations of the people.

6. Leveraging International Support

Engage with international organizations and allies to bolster the pro-democracy movement. However, it is essential to ensure that such support is aligned with the movement's goals and principles. Establishing clear guidelines for how international resources are utilized can help prevent opportunistic exploitation and ensure that external support contributes to the movement's long-term objectives. This will help distinguish between genuine support and counter missions.

7. Fostering a Culture of Transparency

Promote a culture of transparency within the movement to combat opportunism. This can involve regular communication with supporters, open discussions about decision-making processes, and public accountability for actions taken by leaders. Transparency can help build trust among members and the broader public, reinforcing the legitimacy of the movement.

By addressing these challenges, the pro-democracy movement in Swaziland can enhance its effectiveness and work towards a more democratic future. The commitment to overcoming opportunism is critical in uniting diverse voices and ensuring that the struggle for democracy remains focused on the collective aspirations of the Swazi people. A united, principled, and transparent movement will be better equipped to confront the challenges posed by the monarchy and pave the way for a more democratic and equitable Swaziland.

The Dangers of Reformism in the Struggle for Democracy in Swaziland

The Communist Party of Swaziland shares its perspectives on reformism as a danger in the struggle for democracy in Swaziland. This is part of the ongoing political discourse on the strategy and tactics of the struggle for true democracy in Swaziland. Our departure point is that only a revolutionary change can overturn the miseries of tinkhundla dictatorship and lead Swaziland to a path of progress.

Reformism, often viewed as a pragmatic and moderate approach to political change, poses significant dangers in the context of Swaziland's struggle for democracy. Our country has a complex political landscape characterised by a long-standing monarchy, extremely limited political freedoms, and a history of resistance against colonial and authoritarian rule. In this expanded discussion, we will delve deeper into the multifaceted dangers of reformism in this context.

SUPERFICIAL CHANGES

Limited Impact

Reformist measures frequently result in superficial changes that fail to address the underlying issues of political oppression and social injustice. For instance, reforms include cosmetic changes to laws, the introduction of new policies that do not significantly alter the existing power structures. This leads to a situation where people feel a sense of progress, but in reality, their fundamental rights and freedoms remain unprotected.

Moreover, the superficiality of these changes often means that they can be easily reversed or manipulated by the ruling elite, who maintain control over the political narrative. For example, the introduction of a constitution and electoral laws as change, yet the electoral process remains fundamentally flawed, ensuring that the monarchy retains its grip on power.

Co-optation

The ruling elite adopts reformist measures as a strategy to placate dissent without making meaningful changes. By offering limited reforms, the monarchy creates an illusion of responsiveness, thereby defusing public anger and preventing more radical movements from gaining traction. This co-optation stifles genuine calls for democracy and leads to disillusionment among

activists.

In many cases, the regime also uses reformist rhetoric to present itself as a benevolent authority that is willing to listen to the people. This further entrenches the monarchy's legitimacy, making it more difficult to mobilise support for more radical changes.

DIVERTING ATTENTION

Focus Shift

Reformism diverts attention from the need for radical change. Activists may become so focused on achieving specific reforms that they lose sight of the broader goal of dismantling authoritarian structures. This shift dilutes the urgency of the democratic struggle and leads to a fragmented approach to activism.

For example, if activists concentrate solely on obtaining constitutional amendments or establishing a parliamentary system without addressing the monarchy's overarching power, they risk perpetuating a system that does not fundamentally change the balance of power.

Fragmentation of Movements

The emphasis on reform results in the fragmentation of the movements. Different factions prioritise various reform agendas, leading to disunity and weakening the collective power of the movement and losing its resistance character. This fragmentation makes it easier for the ruling regime to suppress dissent and maintain control.

Additionally, when various groups pursue differing reform agendas, it creates confusion among the populace about what the ultimate goals of the movement are. This lack of clarity hinders public engagement and participation, essential components of a successful democratic movement.

LEGITIMISATION OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES

Legitimising Power

Engaging in or assimilation to reformist dialogue inadvertently legitimises authoritarian regimes. When components of the movement participate in discussions that acknowledge the current power structure, they inadvertently grant it credibility. This allows the Mswati autocratic regime to maintain its grip on power while appearing responsive to public concerns.

Furthermore, by entering into negotiations without preconditions, reformist clicks unwittingly endorse the legitimacy of the very system they seek to change. This leads to a situation where the regime uses these discussions to showcase its willingness to engage with the people, further entrenching its authority.

Erosion of Radical Demands

As reformist agendas gain traction, more radical demands for justice and equality are being sidelined. The acceptance of limited reforms leads to a narrowing of the political discourse, where only moderate voices are heard, and the aspirations of those seeking comprehensive change are marginalised.

This erosion of radical demands also creates a hierarchy of needs within the movement, where the most urgent issues, such as human rights abuses, economic inequality, and social injustice are deprioritised in favour of less contentious reforms. This ultimately weakens the movement's impact and relevance.

DEPENDENCY ON EXTERNAL ACTORS

Reliance on International Pressure

Reformist strategies often depend on external factors, such as international NGOs or foreign governments, to apply pressure for change at the expense of strengthening the internal forces. While this sometimes signals positive impact, it also creates a dependency that undermines local agency. External actors do not fully understand the complexities of our politics, leading to misguided interventions.

For instance, international organisations may push for reforms that align with their global agendas, which do not necessarily resonate with the specific needs and aspirations of the Swazi people. This disconnect leads to frustration and disillusionment among local activists who feel sidelined and spectators in their own struggle.

Conditionality Risks

External support for reformist initiatives come with conditions that do not align with the aspirations of the local realities. Such conditionality compromises the integrity of the movements, forcing them to adopt agendas that prioritise external interests over genuine local needs.

Moreover, the reliance on foreign funding creates vulnerabilities for local organisations, making them inevitably shift in international priorities or funding availability. This jeopardises the sustainability of objective reform efforts and leads to a loss of momentum in the struggle for democracy.

POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE

Repression of Dissent

As reformist movements gain traction, the ruling power resorts to violence to suppress dissent with no corresponding response from the movement. This leads to increased conflict and a cycle of repression that further entrenches authoritarianism. The use of state violence also deters public participation in reformist movements, creating a climate of fear.

For instance, the tinkhundla regime employs tactics such as arrests, intimidation, and even lethal force against protestors, which instils fear in the population and discourages active engagement in the movement. Such repression and state terror create a chilling effect, where individuals are less willing to speak out or participate in advocacy efforts.

Backlash Against Reformers

Those advocating for reforms face backlash not only from the state but also from more radical factions within the movement. This creates a dangerous environment for reformists, who may be accused of betraying the cause of democracy by engaging in negotiations with the regime.

The internal divisions within the movement lead to further polarisation, making it challenging to build a unified front against the absolute monarchy. This fragmentation weakens the overall movement and creates opportunities for the regime to exploit divisions for its advantage.

RISK OF COMPLACENCY

False Sense of Progress

Successful implementation of minor reforms has created a false sense of progress among activists and the people. When people perceive that meaningful change is occurring, they become complacent and less willing to engage in further activism. This complacency hinders the momentum needed for more substantial democratic change.

Where a few reforms are enacted, people feel that the struggle for democracy has been achieved, leading to a decrease in public pressure for further changes. This results in a stagnation of the democratic movement, allowing the regime to maintain control without significant challenge.

Neglect of Broader Issues

Focusing on specific reforms leads to the neglect of broader systemic issues that require comprehensive solutions. Important topics such as economic inequality, social justice, and human rights tend to be sidelined in favour of narrower reform agendas, ultimately undermining the holistic vision for democracy.

This neglect can create a situation where the most vulnerable populations, those most affected by systemic injustice, remain marginalised and voiceless if not exposed to isolated reprisal by the regime. The failure to address these broader issues perpetuates cycles of oppression and inequality, undermining the legitimacy of the democratic agenda.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND LESSONS LEARNED

Understanding the historical context of Swaziland's political landscape is crucial. The country has a history of resistance against colonial rule and a struggle for independence, which was often met with repression. Lessons from the past illustrate that while reform can be a necessary part of the process, it must be approached within the context of revolutionary change, which is the correct path dictated by the obtaining conditions and unique circumstances of our situation.

THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITIES

Importance of Grassroots Mobilisation

The CPS believes in the critical role of civil society (apart from the underground political parties, trade unions, student, human rights, and community organisations, to name but a few) in the struggle for democracy. Grassroots movements that prioritise local needs and mobilise communities will counteract the dangers of reformism. By fostering a culture of active citizenship, these movements will create a more informed and engaged population that is less vulnerable to co-optation by the ruling elite.

Building Solidarity

By strengthening solidarity among various social movements, labour, environmental, women's rights, and youth activism, we will create a more formidable force to resist tinkhundla authoritarianism. By recognising the interconnectedness of various struggles of various sections of our population and different communities, we will build a United Front that challenges the regime on multiple fronts, making it more difficult for the ruling elite to suppress dissent.

STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC CHANGE

Emphasising Comprehensive Change

To mitigate the dangers of reformism, activism must emphasise comprehensive change that addresses systemic issues. This includes advocating for the unbanning of political parties and organisations, unconditional release of political prisoners and detainees, unconditional and safe return of exiles, the dissolution of

the tinkhundla government, disbandment of the army, and the establishment of an all-inclusive Interim Authority to facilitate a peaceful transition to a true democracy that will uphold civil liberties and human rights.

A clear, unified platform that articulates the vision for democracy can help maintain focus and momentum. This platform can only be established in an all-inclusive Conference for Democracy which the pro-democracy movement should be united to establish as a matter of urgency.

Engaging in Critical Dialogue

Engaging in critical dialogue within the movement will help clarify goals and strategies. This involves creating spaces for discussion where diverse voices can contribute to shaping the movement's agenda. By fostering an inclusive environment, activists should work to build consensus around key issues while remaining open to different perspectives.

CONCLUSION

While reformism can appear to serve as a stepping stone toward greater democratic aspirations, it carries inherent risks that undermine the struggle for genuine democracy in Swaziland. A balanced approach that recognises the need for both reform and radical change is essential for creating a sustainable democratic future, which reformists deliberately avoid because of their intentions to advance alone to either benefit from the present paralysis or gain control of power as the new political elite to serve their own interests at the expense of the people. By bringing this analysis, the CPS is seeking to alert activists to remain vigilant, ensuring that their efforts do not inadvertently legitimise authoritarianism or dilute the broader goals of justice and equality.

The complex political landscape of our country demands that it is vital for activists to learn from historical precedents, engage in grassroots mobilisation, and prioritise comprehensive change. Building solidarity among various fractions of the democracy movements and maintaining a clear vision for democracy in our country, the struggle for a just and equitable society can be strengthened, ultimately leading to meaningful change for the people of Swaziland.

CPS on the passing of Namibia's founding President Comrade Sam Nujoma



The Communist Party of Swaziland expresses its deepest condolences to the SWAPO Party and the people of Namibia on the profound loss of their founding father, President Sam Nujoma.

Sam Nujoma was not only a pivotal figure in the struggle for Namibia's independence but also a symbol of resilience and hope for oppressed peoples across Africa. His tireless efforts in the face of colonial oppression and apartheid exemplified the spirit of resistance and determination that defined an era. Under his leadership, SWAPO transformed from a liberation movement into a governing party, embodying the aspirations of the Namibian people for freedom, justice, and equality.

Comrade Nujoma's vision extended beyond mere political independence; he championed social justice, economic development, and the empowerment of marginalised communities. His commitment to education, health care, and national unity laid the foundation for a democratic Namibia, fostering a sense of belonging and pride among its citizens.

As we reflect on his legacy, we are reminded of

the importance of solidarity in the struggle for liberation and social justice. President Nujoma's life serves as an inspiration to all those who continue to fight against oppression and inequality, not just in Namibia but across the globe and in particular in our country Swaziland against a monarchic dictatorship of absolute power.

In this moment of grief, we stand in solidarity with the Namibian people, honouring the memory of a true revolutionary leader whose contributions will be remembered for generations to come. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends, and all who were touched by his remarkable life and work.

May his spirit guide us in our ongoing struggles for justice and equality.

Tinkhundla educational crisis

SANU management expels protesting students



brink of collapse, jeopardizing the education of countless young individuals who have a fundamental right to learn.

Amidst these educational challenges, the controversial actions of the 56-year-old male called king Mswati, who recently married a 21-year-old woman, have

Educational crisis is escalating in Swaziland as students from the Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU) were expelled from class amidst class boycotts. The situation, which has been deteriorating for decades, is a stark reflection of the struggles faced by tertiary institutions in the country. The frustration among students reached a tipping point, leading to the suspension of face-to-face classes due to unmet demands.

One of the primary grievances driving the class boycotts is the issue of unpaid allowances and the lack of essential learning equipment. This has created a challenging learning environment, particularly for students from disadvantaged backgrounds living below the poverty line. The recent incident at the University of Swaziland, where students were sent home for demanding their living allowances, further underscores the deep-rooted issues within the education system.

Moreover, lecturers and support staff are also embroiled in protests over unpaid wages, indicating a broader systemic crisis across tertiary institutions. The dire state of affairs has pushed these institutions to the

sparked public outrage. The extravagant spending to maintain his new wife, while students and educators struggle for basic necessities, highlights the stark disparities within the country.

In response to these injustices, the Communist Party of Swaziland promotes the culture of science and knowledge, and fights against any form of oppression or exploitation. The call for practical solutions to address the ongoing crisis resonates with the need for collective action and solidarity among the people of Swaziland, especially the youth, to challenge and overthrow the existing system. It is imperative for the voices of the marginalised and exploited to unite in the pursuit of a more equitable and just society.

#MswatiMustfall!

#FreeEducation for all!

#ReleaseBongo!

#DownWithCapitalism





The philosophers have only *interpreted* the world, in various ways

The point, however, is to *change* it

(Karl Marx 1845)