



CPS on tinkhundla Army Day 2026 - *People's Defence Force, not tinkhundla guards, not royal regiments, not imperialist necessities*

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The Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) expresses its strong disapproval of the regime's commemoration of 53 years of the army, established in 1973 when political parties were banned. This anniversary marks over five decades of a military force that has consistently prioritized the defense of an absolute monarchy over the democratic aspirations of the people.

From its inception, the mandate of the monarchy's army has been to suppress democratic mobilization. Its operations have primarily focused on; Crackdown on political dissent. The army has been involved in violent actions against those advocating for democracy. Participation in international missions that serve imperialist interests rather than the welfare of the Swazi people and world peace.

Today, under the infamous Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008, the regime labels political dissent as terrorism. Activists and pro-democracy organizations are unjustly branded as terrorist entities. The so-called nation is effectively defined as the royal family and political elites, whose interests are prioritized over those of the general populace. The theme for this year's celebration, "***The Safety of the Nation is our Priority,***" underscores a commitment to securing the monarchy against the people.

Since the uprisings in 2021, the army has increasingly adopted fascist characteristics, collaborating with right-wing mercenaries, establishments and governments. This alignment raises concerns even among some members of the defense force, who joined the military out of a genuine desire to serve, not to partake in state-sponsored violence.

Moreover, the army is plagued by mental health issues, with affected members being coerced into clandestine operations rather than receiving proper care. This neglect further exacerbates the challenges faced by those in service and more over posing a threat to the security of the ordinary people. Many lives of ordinary citizens are killed by members of the monarchy defence force.

The CPS urges members of the defense force to use this day to reflect on what constitutes a genuine army that serves the interests of the people. The CPS advocates for the establishment of a People's Defence Force that will prioritize the security and welfare of the population as a whole. An army that has capacity to respond to the challenges faced by the nation, including disease, disasters, and foreign aggression. An army that understands that true national defense involves direct engagement with the people.

This vision stands in stark contrast to the current army of the absolute monarchy, which has become synonymous with corruption, exploitation, and oppression. A People's defence Force is an integral component of the goals of the struggle for democracy. Together, we can envision an army that protects and serves the people of Swaziland, fostering a future rooted in democracy and justice.

Forward to the People's Defence Force.

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