

LICINISO WEEKLY

Fuel hikes weigh heavily on the shoulders of the working class



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Within a space of one month, Swaziland has experienced two fuel hikes, the first on 2 April 2026 and the second on 7 May 2026. These hikes are a direct result of geopolitical instability in the Middle East, specifically the US-Israel war with Iran.

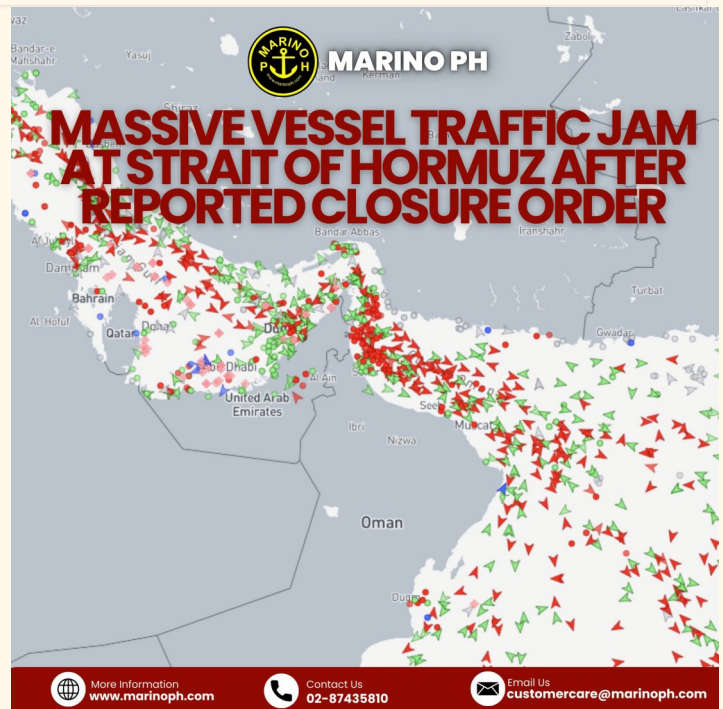
As a student of the Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS) political school, this war illustrates why proletarian internationalism is essential. It also shows why the people of Swaziland must never remain neutral towards injustices committed anywhere in the world. That is why it is crucial for us to stand with the people of Palestine as they fight against the genocide committed by Zionist Israel.

Proletarian internationalism and imperialism

Vladimir Lenin's concept of proletarian internationalism teaches that the working class is single and indivisible; workers around the world are fighting a common enemy, international capital. In our case, the forces that started the war in Iran are the same forces that support and aid the Tinkhundla regime in Swaziland to remain in power.

The Zionist regime in Israel directly supports and advises the Tinkhundla government. For example, some ministers, especially the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, Pholile Shakantu, wear beaded necklaces in the colours of the Israeli flag. This shows how deeply embedded these imperialist forces are within the Tinkhundla government.

Not long ago, we learned that Israel planned to build an embassy in Swaziland after its embassy in South Africa was downgraded to a liaison office. That downgrade followed a vote by South Africa's parliament in response to Israel's endless abuses against the Palestinian people.



As at 1 March 2026: Real-time marine traffic monitoring platforms showing significant vessel congestion at both the entrance and exit points of the Strait of Hormuz, as commercial ships slow down, hold position, or delay transit amid rising regional tension. The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical maritime chokepoints, linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and carrying a substantial portion of global oil and gas shipments. Marion Ph

Rising oil prices and global consequences

Before the war, in February, a barrel of crude oil cost around USD 69, equivalent to about 1,242 rands. Now it costs about USD 106, or roughly 1,908 rands. A barrel is a standard measure equivalent to 159 litres. This means the price of crude oil per litre has risen from 7.81 rands to 12 rands.

Using the Haversine formula, the distance from the Strait of Hormuz to Swaziland is 6,596 km. Yet the ripple effects of the conflict are now being felt directly by the people of Swaziland.

The burden on the working class

The average monthly salary for workers in Swaziland is 2,500 rands. Most workers rely on transport to get to work. After the fuel hikes, transport operators raised fares, the cost of moving goods increased, and the price of food and other essentials went up.

Workers now face difficult choices, including cutting back on food, reducing healthcare expenses, or pulling children out of school, since most children use transport to get to school. With an unemployment rate above 34 per cent, these fuel hikes will have a severe impact on the people of Swaziland.

In essence, a fuel hike in Swaziland acts as a regressive tax that pushes the working class deeper into poverty.

A government that fails the poor

We have witnessed how other countries cushioned their people against the impact of fuel hikes. That has not been the case in Swaziland. Instead, the Tinkhundla regime spent money on double celebrations, namely absolute monarch Mswati's birthday and the commemoration of his 40 years on the throne.

As the regime tries to manage the system, it imposes the costs of economic adjustments squarely on the shoulders of those who can least afford it. The working class continues to pay the price for both global imperialist conflicts and the failures of a system that prioritises elites over ordinary people.

Cde Titus Vilakati is the Treasurer General of the Communist Party of Swaziland.

INTERNATIONAL NURSES DAY

12 May 2026

The Communist Party of Swaziland wishes all nurses a happy International Nurses Day. We salute the dedication, sacrifice, and resilience of nurses who continue to serve the people under difficult conditions.

Nurses are at the frontline of the struggle for quality public healthcare, decent working conditions, fair wages, and human dignity.

Their struggle is inseparable from the broader struggle of workers and the oppressed for justice and equality.

On this day, we reaffirm our solidarity with all nurses and healthcare workers in their fight against exploitation, understaffing, poor working conditions, and the privatisation of healthcare.

Forward with the struggle for quality healthcare for all.

Forward with workers' solidarity.

Down with 40 years of royal slavery

[#RevolutionaryAction](#) [#EndMswatiDictatorship](#)



REACTIONARY ARGUMENTS & REVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES



COMMON REACTIONARY ARGUMENTS & REVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES

REACTIONARY ARGUMENT

1. COMMUNISM IS A FOREIGN IDEOLOGY

REVOLUTIONARY COUNTER-RESPONSE

MARXISM-LENINISM IS A SCIENTIFIC METHOD FOR UNDERSTANDING EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION EVERYWHERE. THE STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION IN SWAZILAND IS ROOTED IN THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF WORKERS AND THE POOR. EXPLOITATION BY CAPITAL AND FEUDAL RULE ARE NOT INDIGENOUS TRADITIONS BUT SYSTEMS THAT BENEFIT THE RULING ELITE.



FOR FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY & SOCIALISM

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COMMON REACTIONARY ARGUMENTS & REVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES

REACTIONARY ARGUMENT

4 GRADUAL REFORM IS POSSIBLE

REVOLUTIONARY COUNTER-RESPONSE HISTORY DEMONSTRATES THAT **RULING CLASSES NEVER SURRENDER POWER VOLUNTARILY. MEANINGFUL CHANGE HAS ALWAYS REQUIRED ORGANIZED MASS STRUGGLE. REFORMS WITHOUT REVOLUTIONARY PRESSURE ARE LIMITED, REVERSIBLE, AND DESIGNED TO PRESERVE THE EXISTING SYSTEM.**

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COMMON REACTIONARY ARGUMENTS & REVOLUTIONARY RESPONSES

REACTIONARY ARGUMENT

5 THE PEOPLE ARE NOT READY FOR REVOLUTION

REVOLUTIONARY COUNTER-RESPONSE **REVOLUTIONARY CONSCIOUSNESS DEVELOPS THROUGH STRUGGLE ITSELF. AS CONDITIONS WORSEN UNDER CAPITALISM AND FEUDAL OPPRESSION, THE MASSES INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR ORGANIZED RESISTANCE AND SOCIALIST TRANSFORMATION.**

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