

COMMUNIST PARTY



OF SWAZILAND

## CENTRAL COMMITTEE

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To: International Secretary - Communist Party USA

### **Greetings from the Communist Party of Swaziland on the Communist Party USA's 31<sup>st</sup> National Convention**

The Communist Party of Swaziland (CPS), on behalf of the entire working and oppressed people of Swaziland, sends great greetings to the Communist Party USA and the entire working people of the USA on CPUSA's 31<sup>st</sup> National Convention.

The CPS congratulates the CPUSA on the holding of its National Convention, particularly on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. The CPS thus sends great wishes on such a historic year for the CPUSA. May the CPUSA see many more revolutionary years ahead, towards a socialist world.

The CPUSA has contributed immensely to the struggle for the emancipation of humankind from capitalist exploitation. The working class of the world has noted over the decades that the CPUSA made important contributions to the struggle for the liberation of African American peoples, including other oppressed groups, who had for centuries endured untold oppression from the enslaving capitalist minority in the USA. The CPUSA also made a sterling contribution to African liberation struggles against capitalist colonialism. The CPS also notes and welcomes the continued contribution of the CPUSA in the struggle against imperialism.

Indeed, humanity is experiencing a profound crisis of the capitalist world economy, of glaring wealth extremes, a refugee crisis, imperialist wars, a growing nuclear danger, other social conflicts, the existential threat posed by the climate and ecological crises, and the rise of fascist and extreme right-wing movements all over the world. These are some of the crises that the people of Africa continue to face and fight against.

The people of Swaziland continue to fight for democracy and freedom, against sub-Saharan Africa's last absolute monarch. The people fight against a system known

as the tinkhundla system, which is nothing but monarchical dictatorship. The people of Swaziland have been languishing under this tinkhundla system effectively since 12 April 1973 when the late king Sobhuza II abrogated the 1968 independence constitution, banned all political parties and activities, and bestowed all executive, legislative and judicial powers upon the monarch. His successor, Mswati III, who took over in 1986 has deepened the tinkhundla system and concentrated more power upon himself, personally, and the monarch as an institution. In his brutal rule he has continued to receive economic and political support from imperialist forces, through which the regime has been able to survive and continue suppressing the people.

The result of the oppressive tinkhundla system has been a worsening of the economy and impoverishment of the people, many of whom have had to migrate to neighbouring South Africa. Close to 70 percent of the people of Swaziland survive on less than US\$2 per day. About a third of the 1.3 million population have been in urgent need of food aid. In the midst of all this poverty, in 2018 Mswati spent over US\$70 million to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, even purchasing a second private jet for himself and a US\$1.6 million wrist watch and other luxurious articles for himself and his many wives, children and hangers-on.

The regime continues to arrest political activists, the latest being Musa Ngubeni, a young former student activist who was convicted on Tuesday 14 May 2019, under trumped up charges for acts alleged to have been committed in April 2011 during protest actions for democracy. Many other activists have been forced into exile since the regime set itself up as an absolute ruler of the people

The CPS, together with Swaziland workers, especially organised under the Trade Union Congress of Swaziland (TUCOSWA), and the oppressed people of Swaziland were on the streets for the better part of 2018 and early 2019 in the fight against the Mswati regime. The fight for democracy, freedom and socialism in Swaziland continues. In this regard, the CPS will continue to learn from the practical struggles of the workers and strive to increase the class consciousness of the entire working class, organised and unorganised, marching in the vanguard line.

The CPS calls for the unconditional unbanning of political parties, unconditional release of political prisoners, unconditional return of political exiles, free and democratic elections in a free environment.

We wish great success for the CPUSA in its National Convention and 100 Anniversary Celebrations!

Long live internationalism!  
Forward to a socialist world!  
Down with capitalism!

Communist Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'K' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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**Thokozani Kenneth Kunene**  
**General Secretary**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> National Congress**