



Swaziland Democracy Campaign (SDC) Build the Global Week of Action 3-7 September 2012

A Call for Multiparty Democratic Elections and A People's Government Now!

What is the Global Week of Action on Swaziland (GWOAS)?

The Global Week of Action for democracy in Swaziland is an initiative of the people of Swaziland under the auspices of the SUDF, and coordinated by the Swaziland Democracy Campaign. It has become the biggest universal campaign for democracy in Swaziland, involving thousands of people all over the world in solidarity with the oppressed people of Swaziland. In the same way that the anti-apartheid movement was found in every corner of the world, the SDC is keen to place this momentum in front of all humanity and force open the silence that condemns the suffering people of Swaziland to perpetual slavery.

The GWOAS programme will include marches, seminars, a people's summit and action workshops in Swaziland and a range of pickets, meetings and demonstrations across the globe in support of the democratic movement.

Swaziland in Crisis?

There is no denying that the Mswati regime is in a deep economic and political crisis and is attempting to resolve it by further attacking the living standards and democratic rights of the Swazi people while maintaining its own lavish lifestyles. The recent pressure the regime is feeling was starkly demonstrated through its desperate administrative measures to frustrate and undermine the recent workers struggles, not only through deregistering the workers Federation TUCOSWA, but also in its unlawful sacking of public sector workers who were out on strike. This is an open admission that they cannot defeat mass struggles through the strong-arm tactics that characterised their approach in the past.

This desperation was amplified when the King recently called a consultative forum or People's Parliament (Sibaya) in an attempt to gain credence and deceive the international community into believing that he was willing to consult his 'subjects', and hear their voices in true democratic practice, unique to Swaziland. In true dictator style, the entire process was stage managed, no pro-democracy voices were taken seriously, in fact they were deliberately marginalised, and instead the King closed his Sibaya by saying he will consult experts about issues raised and adopted none.

The credibility of the regime is in tatters and yet it continues to engage in extremely dictatorial, wasteful and corrupt practices. Despite the loud and urgent cries from his people, tinkhundla misrule will continue!

Increasing numbers of people are with us as the SDC, realising that without multiparty democracy and development, freedom from hunger and impoverishment will not be forthcoming, and are rejecting the continuation of a self-obsessed and disabling clique centred on the Royal household. Now is the time for the democracy movement to continue to assert itself! Now is the time to hear the people and relegate this hopeless and grossly irresponsible regime into the dustbin of history!

What is the Democratic Movement Demanding?

While King Mswati won't hear the voice of the democratic movement we call on all progressives world wide to support us in our call for:

- The immediate unbanning of all political parties, freeing of political prisoners, and the return of all exiles.
- The right to free media expression and an independent judiciary.
- A genuine and all-inclusive political dialogue to end 39 years of tinkhundla misrule.
- An end to the corrupt, undemocratic royal tinkhundla regime and in place a process towards a democratic and all-inclusive interim government to prepare the ground for democratic elections.
- The introduction of an economic recovery plan to address poverty and hunger, driven by a democratic government and civil society.

During the 3-7 September 2012 GWOAS, thousands of activists all over the world, with the focus in South Africa, will link arms with our comrades in Swaziland to pledge their solidarity to all those struggling for democracy, a people's government and an end to corruption and chronic wastage.

The time for a true people's parliament is now!