

Communist Party of Swaziland Response to The People's Hammer Editorial Questionnaire

1. Political Economy of Swaziland

a. Mode of Production in Swaziland

Swaziland's economy is deeply rooted in Capitalism with feudal characteristics mode of production, a typical skank shaped by its colonial history and the entrenched monarchy. The majority of the population relies on subsistence agriculture, often practiced on communal lands, while a small elite class controls the country's industrial and commercial sectors. Industries such as sugar, forestry, textile and mining are dominated by multinational corporations, which exploit Swaziland's natural resources and cheap labour. The rebel Taiwan province of China has assumed a colonial status by patching it's illegitimate authority to the monarchy. This economic structure perpetuates inequality, with wealth concentrated in the hands of the monarchy and its allies, while the majority of the population lives in poverty. The lack of industrialization and diversification has left the economy vulnerable to external shocks, further exacerbating the country's underdevelopment.

b. Role of Imperialist Powers and Neighboring Countries

Imperialist powers like Canada play a significant role in perpetuating Swaziland's economic dependency. Canadian corporations, often operating under the guise of foreign investment, extract resources and exploit labour, reinforcing the country's subordinate position in the global capitalist system. Trade policies and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank and IMF, impose neoliberal reforms that prioritize the interests of foreign capital over local development. South Africa, as Swaziland's largest neighbour, exerts considerable influence over its economy and politics. The South African government often aligns with the Swazi monarchy to maintain regional stability, ensuring that Swaziland remains a compliant partner in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). This relationship further entrenches Swaziland's economic and political subjugation.

c. Political System: Absolute Monarchy

Swaziland's political system is characterized by absolute monarchy, where Mswati holds supreme power. Political parties are banned, and the king appoints the prime minister and cabinet without democratic oversight. The monarchy controls all branches of government, including the judiciary, ensuring that dissent is swiftly suppressed. The king's lavish lifestyle, funded by state resources, stands in stark contrast to the poverty experienced by the majority of Swazis. The lack of political freedoms and democratic institutions has led to widespread discontent, with many calling for the establishment of a democratic republic. The monarchy's

authoritarian rule is maintained through a combination of repression, propaganda, and the co-optation of traditional leaders and weak elements within the pro democracy movement.

d. Current Stage of the Revolution

The current stage of the revolution in Swaziland is a struggle for democracy, aimed at dismantling the monarchy and establishing a democratic republic. The Communist Party of Swaziland envisions a society where power is vested in the people, with free and fair elections, land reform, and the redistribution of wealth. This democratic revolution seeks to address the root causes of inequality and oppression, laying the foundation for a socialist transformation. The Party advocates for the mobilization of the working class, peasantry, and progressive forces to achieve these goals, recognizing that the monarchy will not relinquish power without a sustained and organized struggle.

e. Legal Status of Mass Organizations

While political parties are banned in Swaziland, mass organizations such as unions and communities operate under severe restrictions. These organizations play a crucial role in mobilizing the working class and rural poor, advocating for their rights and interests. However, they face constant harassment, arrests, and repression from the state. Despite these challenges, mass organizations continue to resist the regime, organizing strikes, protests, and other forms of collective action. The Communist Party of Swaziland works closely with these organizations, providing ideological guidance and support to strengthen their capacity to challenge the monarchy.

2. Communist Party of Swaziland

a. Ideological-Political Line

The Communist Party of Swaziland is guided by Marxism-Leninism, a revolutionary ideology that seeks to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism. The Party's ideological-political line emphasizes class struggle, anti-imperialism, and the empowerment of the working class and peasantry. It views the monarchy as a reactionary force that must be dismantled to achieve liberation and social justice. The CPS advocates for a revolutionary transformation of society, where the means of production are collectively owned and controlled by the people. It recognizes the importance of international solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and capitalism, forging alliances with progressive forces worldwide.

b. Underground Organizing Tactics

Operating underground in a repressive environment, the Communist Party of Swaziland employs a range of tactics to organize and mobilize the masses. These include clandestine networks, grassroots mobilization, and alliances with mass organizations. The Party emphasizes political education, propaganda, and direct action to build its base and resist the regime. It works to develop revolutionary cadres who can lead the struggle at the local level, ensuring that the Party's influence extends to all sectors of society. Despite the risks, the CPS

remains committed to its mission, recognizing that the path to liberation requires sacrifice and perseverance.

c. Key Decisions at the 5th National Congress (Autumn 2023)

The 5th National Congress of the Communist Party of Swaziland, held in Autumn 2023, marked a significant milestone in the Party's history. The congress prioritized the **intensification of the struggle** for democracy, the **development of revolutionary cadres**, and the expansion of **mass mobilization** efforts. It reaffirmed the Party's commitment to **armed struggle** as a means to achieve liberation, recognizing the need for a decisive break with the monarchy. The congress also emphasized the importance of **international solidarity**, calling on progressive forces worldwide to support the struggle in Swaziland. These decisions have strengthened the Party's organizational capacity and deepened its influence among the masses.

d. Boycott and Prevention of Elections

The Communist Party of Swaziland calls for the boycott of elections, viewing them as a tool to legitimize the monarchy. It organizes the masses through campaigns of non-participation, strikes, and protests to delegitimize the regime. The Party argues that participation in elections under the current system only serves to reinforce the monarchy's grip on power. There is no prospects for victory through parliamentary under absolute power, Instead, it advocates for a revolutionary approach that seeks to dismantle the existing political order and establish a democratic republic. The Party's campaign against elections has gained traction among the masses, highlighting the growing discontent with the regime.

e. Strategy of People's War and Insurrection

The Communist Party of Swaziland's strategy involves a people's war aimed at the insurrectionary seizure of power. It rejects negotiations with the state, viewing them as a trap to co-opt the movement. The Party believes that the monarchy will not relinquish power without a sustained and organized struggle, and it is committed to mobilizing the masses for this purpose. The strategy emphasizes the importance of revolutionary violence as a means to achieve liberation, recognizing that peaceful methods alone are insufficient to dismantle the regime. The Party's approach is rooted in the belief that the masses, armed with revolutionary consciousness, can overthrow the monarchy and establish a democratic republic.

f. Results of the 2024 Cadre Development Campaign

The Communist Party of Swaziland declared 2024 as the Year of Cadre Development for Insurrectionary Seizure of Power. This campaign has strengthened the Party's organizational capacity, trained new cadres, and deepened its influence among the masses. It has also led to increased resistance activities across the country, with the CPS playing a leading role preparing the situation for organised strikes, protests, and other forms of collective action. The campaign has demonstrated the Party's commitment to building a revolutionary movement capable of challenging the monarchy and achieving liberation. The results of this

campaign have been significant, with the CPS influence growing steadily among the working class and rural poor. The majority in the pro democracy movement accepts the leadership role of the CPS in the National Democratic Revolution.

3. The 2021 Rebellion

a. Causes and Main Demands

The 2021 rebellion in Swaziland was a watershed moment in the country's history, sparked by widespread anger over economic hardship, political repression, and the monarchy's excesses. The rebellion was fuelled by decades of inequality, corruption, and the lack of democratic freedoms. The main demands included democratic reforms, an end to corruption, and improved living conditions. The rebellion was characterized by mass protests, strikes, and acts of civil disobedience, with the masses taking to the streets to demand change. The movement was largely spontaneous, driven by the deep-seated grievances of the people. It outlined the revolutionary potential of the people. We build from that outlook.

b. State Reaction

The state responded to the rebellion with brutal repression, deploying security forces to crush dissent. Mass arrests, killings, and the use of force were widespread, as the regime sought to maintain its grip on power. Despite the repression, the movement persisted, highlighting the resilience and determination of the masses. The state's reaction exposed the fragility of the regime, revealing the extent to which it relies on violence to maintain control. The repression also galvanized international attention, with calls for solidarity and support for the struggle in Swaziland.

c. Main Lessons

The 2021 rebellion demonstrated the potential for mass mobilization and the need for a unified revolutionary strategy. It highlighted the importance of organizing the masses and building a revolutionary movement capable of challenging the regime. The rebellion also underscored the limitations of spontaneous action, emphasizing the need for a vanguard party to provide leadership and direction. The Communist Party of Swaziland has drawn important lessons from the rebellion, recognizing the importance of building alliances, developing revolutionary cadres, and preparing for a sustained struggle. The rebellion has also reinforced the Party's commitment to armed struggle as a means to achieve liberation.

4. Closing Questions

a. Support from Canadian Communists and Workers

Canadian Communists and Workers can support the struggle in Swaziland by raising awareness, organizing solidarity campaigns, and pressuring their government to stop supporting the Swazi regime. Financial and material aid to the Communist Party of Swaziland and its allies is also crucial. Canadian progressives can play a vital role in exposing the crimes of the monarchy and advocating for international sanctions against the regime.

Solidarity actions, such as protests, letter-writing campaigns, and fundraising efforts, can help amplify the voices of the Swazi people and build international support for their struggle.

b. Final Remarks

The struggle in Swaziland is a fight for justice, democracy, and liberation. The Communist Party of Swaziland calls on all progressive forces worldwide to stand in solidarity with the people of Swaziland as they strive to build a better future. The CPS remains committed to its mission of overthrowing the monarchy and establishing a democratic republic, recognizing that the path to liberation requires sacrifice and perseverance. The people of Swaziland have shown remarkable resilience and determination in the face of repression, and their struggle serves as an inspiration to oppressed peoples everywhere. Together, we can achieve victory and build a world free from exploitation and oppression.

The End

Thank you.

