

# The Unrest in Eswatini

In May 2021 the mysterious death of a student triggered an outbreak of unrest in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland. Sporadic eruptions of protests, demonstrations, and rioting, along with arrests, violence, and the suppression of dissent and media are continuing.

The following presentation is a first draft [expect typos] of an ongoing attempt to display the events that have occurred, understand their causes, and search for hopefully peaceful solutions.



# Background

Central to the discontent has been abolishment of democracy in Swaziland. Swaziland became independent in 1968 as a monarchical parliamentary democracy akin to its former colonial authority Great Britain.

In 1973 then king **Sobhuza II** abrogated the constitution and re-established the traditional kingship with all powers vested in the king. As a monumental figure in Swazi history, with a daughter of every major chief in the country as a wife, and enjoying wide support and popularity, the move was met with little opposition. Living in the traditional lifestyle he eschewed the trappings of luxury and wealth.

His successor, **Mswati III** was quite the opposite. Choosing the life of luxury, he spent lavishly on fleets of luxury cars, jets, and accommodations while the impoverished country languished economically and unemployment and resentment rose. By 2021 the stagnated economy ravaged by Covid and AIDS created a tinder box that exploded in June 2021.

NDLOVUKAZI PRESENTS KING WITH DINING SUITE MADE OF GOLD



Thus, the people are demanding democratization of the economy – along with a socially guaranteed healthcare and education

HEARTBREAKING NEWS: Amidst all the economic challenges eSwazitini, King Mswati III yesterday decided to bless his wives with very expensive wheels  
2





# Background

## King of Poverty-Ridden Eswatini Buys Rolls-Royce Cars for His 15 Wives

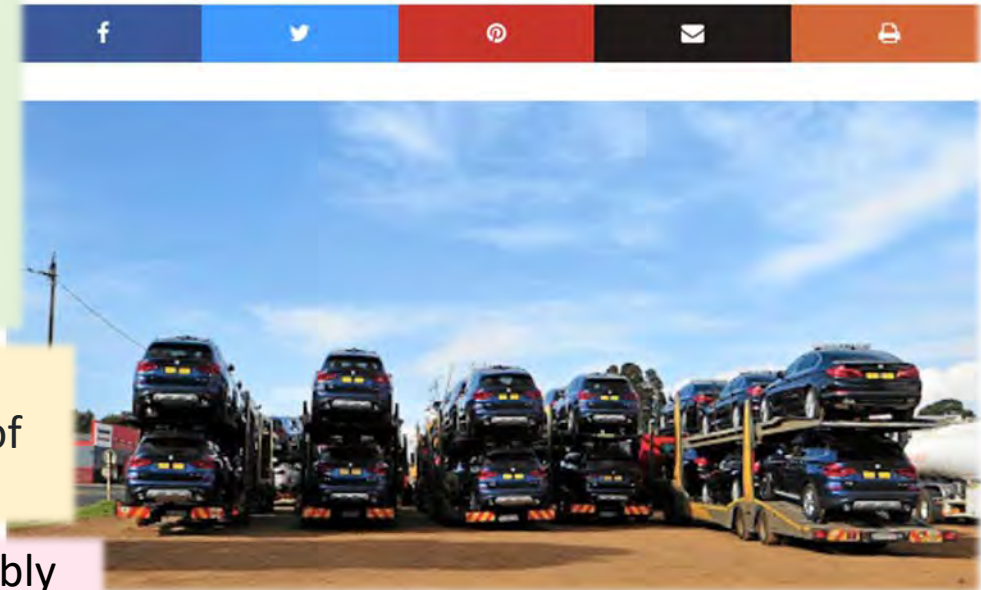
Nov. 19, 2019 The Eswatini ministry of public works and transport has confirmed receiving a fleet of new BMWs. The media statement by Ndlaluhlaza Ndwandwe, the minister of public works and transport was issued on Friday after Sowetan broke the story of **79 BMW X3 SUVs and BMW 540 cars**. The delivery follows that of **15 Rolls Royces** which were shipped into SA through the Durban. [Source](#)

US think-tank **Freedom House reports in 2013 that 66% of Swazis are unable to meet their basic food needs** and 29% of children under five are nutritionally stunted. [Source](#)

In the 2014 national budget, the country's national assembly reportedly allocated R861 million for the King's annual household budget. In 2018, the **50-year-old monarch got a birthday gift for himself--a plane and an airport worth R2.6 billion**. He owns several luxury cars, including a R7 million **Maybach**. [Source](#)

## Eswatini confirms spend - Yes, we bought the flashy cars

Y ISAAC MAHLANGU -12 November 2019 - 11:12



# The Spark

**May 8, 2021:** 25-year-old law student **Thabani Nkomonye** goes missing and is later found dead. Suspicion that his death was a result of his activities opposing the regime leads to nation-wide student protests.

**'Justice for Thabani'** becomes a slogan against the monarchy "Thabani" Simphiwe says, "has become the face" of the ongoing movement against the monarchy, because his murder, and the treatment meted out to his family and fellow-students seeking justice, is "typical of how Mswati regime disregards the value of human life in this country." [source](#)



Eswatini Youth Demand Justice After Thabani Nkomonye's Mysterious Death



Photo by DIANE LORI GUERCA/AFP via Getty Images  
Protesters run for cover as they clash with Eswatini anti-riot police in 2018 in Manzini during a protest against low wages. Recently, the youth have been protesting against

**May 8:** after dropping his brother at his residence in Ngwane Park in **Manzini**, Thabani drove on to spend the Saturday night at his brother's guest house, promising to return the next day. He did not return.



**May 17:** 3,000 students marched from the university to the Sigodvweni police station in **Matsapha** demanding and delivering a petition seeking an inquiry and action against the police personnel involved in what they alleged to be a murder.



## May 15: Suspected police hand in death of youth in Swaziland sparks mass protests

**May 15:** The alleged role of the police in the death of Thabani Nkomonye has led to huge protests. Security forces attacked his memorial service and arrested student protesters, including **Bafanabakhe Sacolo**, secretary general of the Swaziland National Union of Students



**May 21:** Ahead of the memorial service for Thabani, about 200 to 300 students gathered at the office of Swaziland National Association of Teachers (SNAT) in Manzini and marched on from there to the police station.





**May 21:** A final-year nursing student at the **University of Swaziland, Bafanabakhe Sacolo**, along with four other students, was arrested by the police who had fired tear gas and violently dispersed those attending the memorial service for Thabani Nkomonye, who was allegedly killed by the police earlier this month.



**May 26:** the Secretary General of the left-wing Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS), Bafanabakhe Sacolo, was received by a jubilant crowd of students who carried him on their shoulders after his release from the maximum security prison in the town of **Matsapha**. Two other students of Swaziland University, Khumbula Nxumalo and Siphosethu Mavimbela, were also released.



## June 21: Rural School Uprising



In the **Kukhanyeni** Constituency, 25 kilometers to the north of Manzini, protesters allegedly blocked a main road by lighting firewood and burning tires after delivering the petition, whereupon the [police opened fire](#).

**June 21:** Police had to use live rounds to disperse protesters at **Kukhanyeni**.

This was after the protesters, who delivered their petition to the constituency's Member of Parliament (MP), Malavi Sihlongonyane, blocked the main road leading to other chiefdoms and also linking it with Manzini.

The protesters are said to have set alight firewood and tires on the road while also blocking it with rocks as they sang political songs. This happened on Saturday after lunch at the constituency which is located about 25 kilometres north of Manzini. [source](#)

**June 29-30:** Heavy crackdown on dissent begins by state security. Protests and riots ensue in multiple locations in Eswatini with some leading to looting and arson. Over 70 protestors were allegedly killed in the days that followed.



Armed forces open fire in crackdown on anti-monarchy protests in Eswatini

Teargas used against protesters in African kingdom with an overnight curfew imposed



Eswatini has been rocked by pro-democracy protests which have steadily intensified since Monday. Picture: Swazi News

eSwatini streets deserted as anti-monarchy riots turn deadly: activists



King Mswati III has come under fire for his expensive tastes and spending. Photograph: Jeffery M. Hume/Getty Images

King Mswati's assets are targeted.

Swaziland's investment institution [is Tibiyo Taka Ngwane](#), over which Mswati has absolute control, is an umbrella company for Mswati's assets. Along with many Swazi businesses, these include South African blue chip companies - including **MTN**, sugar company **Illovo**, Johann Rupert's investment firm, **Remgro**, **Sun International** and **SABMiller** - have all of which brokered relationships with the monarch. These companies have either given large chunks of the shares in their Swazi businesses to Mswati directly or to Tibiyo.

In the case of MTN, it paid dividends directly to Mswati as the 10% "esteemed shareholder" of MTN Swaziland. [source](#)



**June 19:** Residents marched to the offices of their MPs. A few hundreds to over a thousand protesters are estimated to have taken part in each of these marches. The MPs from at least 25 constituencies have already been forced to accept petitions, including in the 15 constituencies.



**June 24:** King Mswati III's government in Swaziland imposed a ban on demonstrations, amidst an unprecedented country-wide wave of pro-democracy and anti-monarchy protests. For the first time, these protests are not limited to urban areas, but have also spread across rural Swaziland.

**June 25:** Acting Prime Minister **Themba Masuku** issues decree banning all protests and delivery of petitions.

**Themba Masuku**



**Acting Prime Minister of Eswatini**

In office

**June 29:** Government shuts down Internet





## **June 29-30:** Nationwide protests occur. Reports cite **24 killed and over 70** amid crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Swaziland

**June 28:** King Mswati III on pro-democracy protesters who are challenging the rule of Africa's last absolute monarch. **Rumors spread that Mswati reportedly fled the country** on the night of June 28 amid the intensification of protests.

**June 30:** in the small town of **Simunye** in Swaziland's eastern region, around a thousand residents from Simunye and neighboring villages held a demonstration that was also fired on by security forces. Several participants were also arrested. "About 500 protesters who had regrouped after the attack, marched to the Simunye police station demanding their release. The police fired live bullets on them just outside the station. A large number of them are seriously injured." [source](#)



**June 29-30:** In **Manzini** protests flare up and police react by firing on protesters with tear gas, then live ammunition. Scrambling for cover as the police opened fire, some students ran into Manzini **bus station**, into which the police indiscriminately lobbed tear gas, inhaling which a four month old baby died in the arms of her mother who was waiting for a bus, he claimed. “They chased us all around the city,” he said.



**June 30:** As a part of this campaign protesters target and destroy properties and businesses of the king who owns much of Swaziland's economy with no accountability to the parliament or the public, youth of **Matsapha** torched supermarkets, trucks etc.



**June 30:** Over 50 people were admitted with gunshot wounds to the government hospital in the capital **Mbabane**. Five of those admitted were declared dead.



**June 30:** Another five succumbed to their wounds in the Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital in **Manzini**, the economic hub of the country.

**June 30:** In a health center in **Nhlangano**, in the southern region of the country, another 20 victims who were shot at with live ammunition were admitted, one of whom died.

[YouTube video footage of June Riots of June 30](#)

## 1 July: Gunshots were fired at U.S. embassy vehicle



### U.S. Embassy in Eswatini

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## Ambassador Jeanne M. Maloney

[Home](#) | [Our Relationship](#) | [Ambassador Jeanne M. Maloney](#)



**Jeanne Marie Maloney, U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini**

Jeanne M. Maloney, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, was sworn in as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini on December 9, 2020.

Most recently, Ambassador Maloney served as the Foreign Policy Advisor to U.S. Army Africa in Vicenza, Italy. Previously, she was the Director of the Office of Security Affairs in the Department of State's Bureau of African Affairs. Earlier assignments in the Department include service as Career Development Officer, Bureau of Human Resources; Director of the Office of Terrorist Screening and Interdiction, the Bureau of Counterterrorism; and Deputy Political-Military



**4 July:** Regional actor **SADC** (Southern Africa Development Community) arrives in Eswatini to scope ongoing unrest.

## **African nations deploy envoys to Eswatini to help stem unrest**

*At least one person was killed and dozens wounded in latest pro-democracy protests in tiny southern African kingdom.*



Paramedics tend to a person who was injured by police during protests in Mbabane [AFP]

**16 July:** Sibaya (traditional dialogue) held at Ludzidzini Royal residence by **King Mswati III** where he announced new Prime Minister, **Cleopas Dlamini**





**July 25:** Two Members of Parliament, **Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza** and **Mthandeni Dube** are arrested and detained at Mbabane police station under charges including the Suppression of Terrorism Act. They continue to be incarcerated.



MANZINI - Hosea Member of Parliament Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza being pushed by plain-clothes police officers while he was on the phone during his arrest yesterday. CENTRE: The MP being shoved into a Quantum by the officers. RIGHT: Mabuza wrestling with the po

Pro-democracy MPs [#Bacede](#) Mabuza & [#Mthandeni](#) Dube appeared in court today for housekeeping, their trial is set for 16-17 November 2021

[#EswatiniProtests](#)  
[#Eswatini](#)



**September 5:** Police shot and killed a suspected cannabis farmer in the southern town of **Nhlangano**, provoking widespread outrage. On September 6, it was one of the towns where protests continued despite deployment of security forces. For Swazi progressive leaders, the killing is directly connected to the deep economic and political crisis facing the majority in the country.



**September 07:** Pro-democracy protests against Swaziland's monarch intensify on 'Independence Day'. The **protests held across the 59 constituencies** in Swaziland against the rule of the absolute monarchy were successful despite the deployment of security forces to crackdown.

**September 10:** Hundreds of pro-democracy protesters demonstrated **outside the UN office** in Swaziland's capital, **Mbabane** to demand an end to the absolute rule of King Mswati III.

Ten representatives of the Political Party Assembly (PPA), a coalition of five banned political parties, met with the UN Resident Coordinator, Nathalie Ndongo-Seh. In the meeting, representatives of the PPA raised the grievances of the people against Africa's last absolute monarch, including the urgent issue of brutality by his security forces.



Regalia with Mswati's face burned at the Oshoek border gate protest calling for democracy in Swaziland.

[#DemocracyNow](#) [#GlobalWeekOfAction](#)

**September 9:** Border Protests: Swaziland's border gates with South Africa were blockaded from the latter's side, as a part of the Global Week of Action in support of pro-democracy protests. These [included](#) the **Golela** border gate in KwaZulu-Natal Natal Province, **Matsamo** border gate in Mpumalanga Province, and **Oshoek** border gate in Mpumalanga.



Continue watching on Twitter

**September 23:** Following [intermittent protests](#) in various cities, a sustained agitation began once again on the student front, starting with the [boycott of exams by second semester students of William Pitcher college](#) in **Manzini**

The students were attacked and forced out of the campus by the police and army. This only fanned the flames, agitating more and more colleges and schools whose students joined the boycott, raising similar demands for accessible quality education.





**October 1:** Peaceful protestors march to US Embassy appealing for support.  
One protestor reported be shot.



## October 1: Student boycotts and protests reemerge

**October 9:** Police once again fired tear gas into the campus of **William Pitcher college** in **Manzini** on the night of October 9, this time to intimidate the final-year students who had planned to boycott the exams the next day. The police action not only failed to intimidate the students who went ahead with the boycott, but also provoked fellow students from other schools and colleges.



**October 11:** Students from well over 50 schools participated in the boycott and protest on October 11. Most of these students, he said, were below the age of 18 – including many as young as six.

**October 13:** [A student of Nzongomane high school](#) near **Nhlangano** town was shot dead according to a [statement](#) by Nonhlanhla Dlamini, Executive Director of Swatini Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA), an NGO working to end gender-based violence and sexual abuse



## October 15: Government again shuts down Internet

This is at variance with the [US State Dept 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Eswatini](#) of March 2021 [Reported before the May-June uprising--no update since]

### “INTERNET FREEDOM

“The government [of Eswatini] did not restrict or disrupt access to the internet or censor online content, and there were no credible reports the government monitored private online communications without appropriate legal authority.”



## **October 15:** Nationwide protests met with force. Death toll rises to over 80 [according to Amnesty International](#)

**Oct. 15: Pigg's Peak:** A police officer who was beaten up after his weapon was snatched by the protesters, was hospitalized along with the four protesters he and his colleague had shot.

**Oct. 15: Siteki:** A protest was held outside the police station demanding justice for Nhlanhla Kunene who was killed by the police on October 9 for a curfew violation.

**Oct. 15: Manzini:** Another 10 people were operated for injuries in RFM hospital in Manzini, the country's economic and industrial hub which has been a hotbed of anti-monarchist sentiment

**Oct. 15: Siphofaneni:** One of the three protesters who was shot in the town of in central Swaziland was allegedly left unattended with a bullet wound for nearly an hour till the firing subsided, because even paramedics trying to attend to him were [allegedly](#) targeted by soldiers.



**Oct. 15: Mbabane:** Dozens suffered bullet injuries in Swaziland when the police and army attacked unarmed pro-democracy protesters. Four unconfirmed deaths have also been [reported](#).

**Oct. 15: Nhlangano:** protesters blocked roads with burning tires, police reportedly fired live rounds and tear gas, including into homes of people. No serious injuries have been reported from the town.

## October 20: US embassy issues alert to staff of protest march.

“Public Servants Associations (PSAs) plan to deliver a petition to the Ministry of Public Service in Mbabane on Wednesday, October 20th. The group will meet at Coronation Park at approximately 9:00 a.m. PSAs will begin the march to deliver the petition at 10:00 a.m. using the following route: Msakato street to Zwide street; Zwide street to Mahlokohla street; Mahlokohla street to Makhosikhisi road; Makhosikhisi road to Sozisa road; Sizisa road to Umlilo street leading to the public service block of government offices.”

US State Department has issued a [Do not Travel Advisory for Eswatini](#) due to the unrest as well as Covid

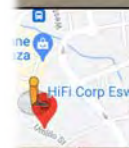
### Eswatini Travel Advisory

Travel Advisory  
November 27, 2021

Eswatini - Level 4: Do Not Travel

Do not travel to Eswatini due to **civil unrest** and **COVID-19**.

Eswatini is experiencing sporadic civil unrest and protests across the country. The government of Eswatini has announced a nationwide curfew from 2000– 0500. Communication disruptions, including internet and cell phone service, can occur during protests.





**October 22:** Member of the Eswatini Parliament, **Mduduzi Simelane**, says in interview that governance has broken down amid pro-democracy protests spreading throughout the kingdom.

Simelane has been sought by the Eswatini police on the same terrorism charges. **He is currently in hiding.**

[Link to YouTube interview](#)  
with Mduduzi Simelane



**December 4:** Reports that school children have been shot and arrested in the unfolding political crisis in Eswatini.

The Swaziland National Association of Teachers says this happened at the rural **Mayiwane** primary and high school. It's not clear how many pupils were wounded or detained.

Secretary-general of the Swaziland National Association of Teachers, **Sikelela Dlamini**. [Link to YouTube interview with Sikelela Dlamini](#)



SNAT Secretary General Sikelela Dlamini leading teachers in song during last year's strike. (FAP Pic)



## January 31, 2022: The President of the Swaziland National Union of Students **Colani Maseko** arrested.

While on his way to his campus on Monday, January 31, Colani was “abducted” by plain-clothed security officials, in connection with such a protest action in Manzini on November 29, 2021 at the Southern Africa Nazarene University (SANU).

SNUS Campaign officer, **Sibusiso Nkwanyana**, who was caught recording this abduction on phone, was also whisked away by these officials of the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) who drove him to Mliba police station. Here he was “tortured and throttled”, before being released without any charges, SNUS said in a statement.

In another part of the city, the police also arrested **Simphiwe Gamedze**, a leader of the SNUS branch at Luyengo campus of the University of Swaziland, known officially as the University of Eswatini (UNESWA) since the king renamed the country. After being interrogated and tortured, Gamedze was also released without charges.



[< NEWS](#)

February 1, 2022 1:40 pm

**Eswatini: Student activist arbitrarily detained, facing malicious charges must be released**

Recently added

Honduras: Amnesty International condemns conviction of one of the

[source](#)



## **February 4:** Colani Maseko, the President of the Swaziland National Union of Students freed under bail.

A court in the city of **Manzini** granted bail to Colani Maseko, the president of Swaziland National Union of Students (SNUS) on Friday, February 4. The student leader had been arrested on January 31 and charged with sedition.

His bail came a day after the SNUS marched to the Manzini regional police headquarters and held a demonstration on February 3. A cross section of Swaziland's pro-democracy forces, including the banned political parties, trade unions, and youth organizations, attended the action.

Report source: [Peoples Dispatch](#)

### **Student leader in Swaziland granted bail after protesters threaten to render kingdom “ungovernable”**

The arrest of Colani Maseko and subsequent torture of student leaders coincided with a fresh wave of anti-monarchist protests

February 04, 2022 by Pavan Kulkarni

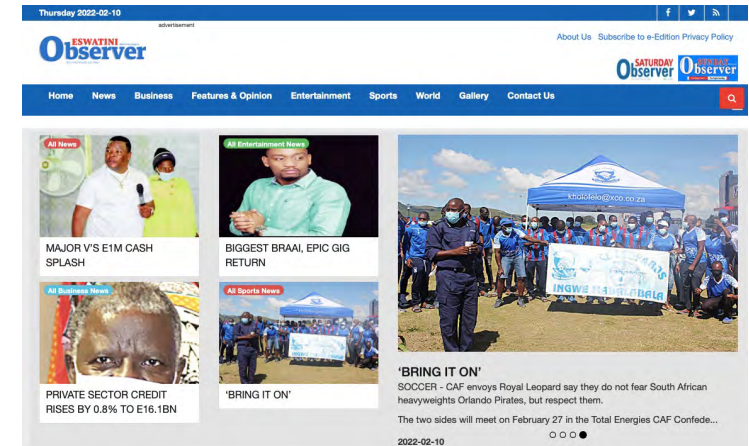
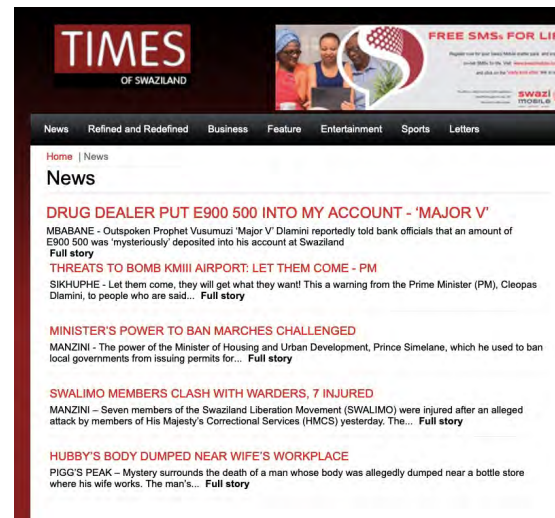
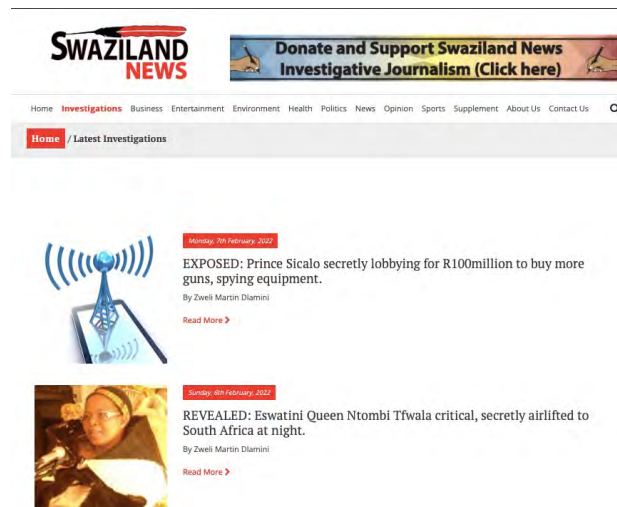


Colani Maseko's bail came a day after the SNUS marched to the Manzini regional police headquarters and held a demonstration on February 3 (Photo via: @CPSwaziland on Twitter)

Feb. 4 the last date of the current chronology  
If you have any events to insert or corrections to the above  
[Please let us know.](#)

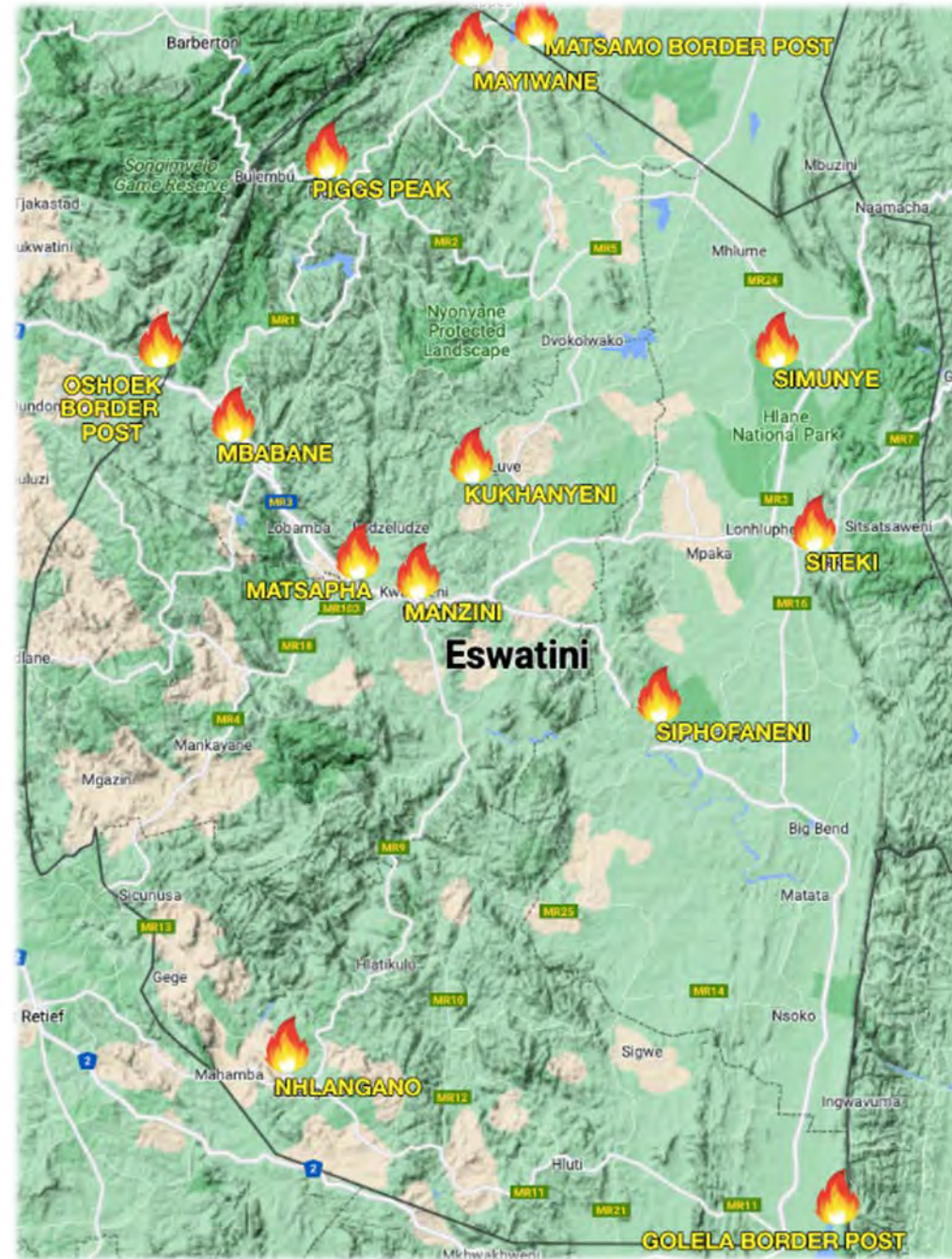
NEXT:

- Map of Protest and conflict sites
- Main Media covering the events in Eswatini
- Appendix of further reading





# Protest Sites cited in this article



# MEDIA

Time of Swaziland is a venerable news source dating to 1909.

<http://www.times.co.sz>

Some say it leans toward supporting the government but does cover the unrest including this opposition op-ed [“How did we get here Mswati?”](#) from Oct. 2021

**TIMES**  
OF SWAZILAND



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## News

### DRUG DEALER PUT E900 500 INTO MY ACCOUNT - 'MAJOR V'

MBABANE - Outspoken Prophet Vusumuzi 'Major V' Dlamini reportedly told bank officials that an amount of E900 500 was 'mysteriously' deposited into his account at Swaziland

**Full story**

### THREATS TO BOMB KMIII AIRPORT: LET THEM COME - PM

SIKHUPHE - Let them come, they will get what they want! This a warning from the Prime Minister (PM), Cleopas Dlamini, to people who are said... **Full story**

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### SWALIMO MEMBERS CLASH WITH WARDERS, 7 INJURED

MANZINI – Seven members of the Swaziland Liberation Movement (SWALIMO) were injured after an alleged attack by members of His Majesty's Correctional Services (HMCS) yesterday. The... **Full story**


### HUBBY'S BODY DUMPED NEAR WIFE'S WORKPLACE

PIGG'S PEAK – Mystery surrounds the death of a man whose body was allegedly dumped near a bottle store where his wife works. The man's... **Full story**



# MEDIA


**Swaziland News** is an opposition news source based in South Africa. According to Amnesty International, Zweli Martin Dlamini, editor of the *Swaziland News*, was arrested at his home in Mbabane for publishing articles which criticized the King. He said he was tortured in the Mbabane police headquarters, including by having a plastic bag put over his head. He was released without charge six hours later and fled to South Africa the following day. In April, police raided his home and arrested his wife, Nompandolo Nokuthula Mkhonta. While in police custody in Mbabane, she was tortured under interrogation and released three hours later without charge.



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Monday, 7th February, 2022

EXPOSED: Prince Sicalo secretly lobbying for R100million to buy more guns, spying equipment.

By Zweli Martin Dlamini

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Sunday, 6th February, 2022

REVEALED: Eswatini Queen Ntombi Tfwala South Africa at night.

By Zweli Martin Dlamini


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Swazi Media

11.6K Tweets

News Today @Newstoday349 · Feb 5

Swaziland News Editor, Zweli Martin Dlamini calls for burning down of more properties belonging or with connections to His Majesty King Maswati III as political tensions continue to rise in the Country.  
Courtesy: Swaziland News



239 views 0:02 / 0:12

# MEDIA

## SWAZILAND

[Peoples Dispatch](#) is an excellent source of in depth reports and images of the unrest. Supports dissident POV.



Swaziland

Student leader in Swaziland granted bail after protesters threaten to render kingdom “ungovernable”

Pavan Kulkarni / February 04, 2022

The arrest of Colani Maseko and subsequent torture of student leaders coincided with a fresh wave of anti-monarchist protests



Swaziland

Despite mass shooting and repression, unions in Swaziland continue struggle for rights and democracy

Pavan Kulkarni / November 08, 2021

Close to two weeks after security forces fired on nurses and teachers ahead of a protest, trade unions in Swaziland determinedly continue their fight for better working conditions, living wages and democratization



Swaziland

Dozens injured as army and police brutally attack pro-democracy protesters in Swaziland

Pavan Kulkarni / October 16, 2021

Swaziland is seeing a fresh round of protests against the rule of Mswati III, Africa's last absolute monarch. Despite severe repression, students, transport workers, civil servants and other sections of society are out on the streets



# MEDIA

**Eswatini Observer** (formerly *Swazi Observer*) is a newspaper in the Kingdom of Eswatini. It was established in 1981 and it is owned by [Tibiyo Taka Ngwane](#), a Swazi sovereign wealth fund controlled by Mswati.

Considered to be the voice of the Government.

Thursday 2022-02-10

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'BRING IT ON'

**'BRING IT ON'**

SOCCER - CAF envoys Royal Leopard say they do not fear South African heavyweights Orlando Pirates, but respect them.

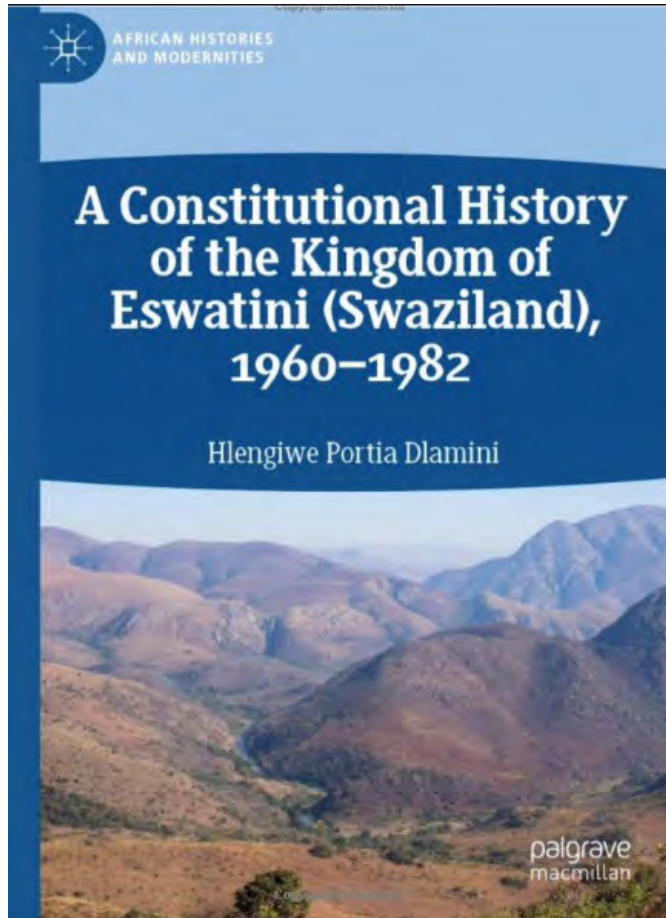
The two sides will meet on February 27 in the Total Energies CAF Confede...

2022-02-10



# Background Reading

## A Constitutional History of the Kingdom of Eswatini (Swaziland), 1960–1982 by [Hlengiwe Portia Dlamini](#)



Available on Amazon as hard copy or Kindle eBook -> [LINK](#)

This is an outstanding and well-written history from the first moments of the Eswatini's constitutional development through the 1973 auto *coup d'état* to the 1982 death of Sobhuza II, that sets a background for the current unrest.

Amazon blurb: Swaziland—recently renamed Eswatini—is the only nation-state in Africa with a functioning indigenous political system. Elsewhere on the continent, most departing colonial administrators were succeeded by Western-educated elites. In Swaziland, traditional Swazi leaders managed to establish an absolute monarchy instead, qualified by the author as benevolent and people-centred, a system which they have successfully defended from competing political forces since the 1970s. This book is the first to study the constitutional history of this monarchy. It examines its origins in the colonial era, the financial support it received from white settlers and apartheid South Africa, and the challenges it faced from political parties and the judiciary, before King Sobhuza II finally consolidated power in 1978 with an auto-coup d'état. As Hlengiwe Dlamini shows, the history of constitution-making in Swaziland is rich, complex, and full of overlooked insight for historians of Africa.

Further Background Reading -> [JUMP LINK to APPENDIX](#)

# Appendix and Further Reading

## Notes by John M

"ANALYSIS | Hlengiwe Portia Dlamini: ["Eswatini uprising - The unfinished business of democratic reform"](#) - this included a link to The Conversation  
Hlengiwe Portia Dlamini 25 Nov 2021

["What lies behind uprisings in Eswatini: the unfinished business of democratic reform"](#)

Published in the US the day before the one above pub in Africa  
Hlengiwe Portia Dlamini November 24, 2021

[Hlengiwe Portia Dlamini is listed at The Conversation as a history professor at both the U of Eswatini and the U of the Free State](#), with a PhD from the U of Pretoria in 2016.

Based on what I read in her report/ essay, mention of a PhD, and list of publications, I went looking for her dissertation, which then popped up as a book.

[Constitutional Developments in the Kingdom of Swaziland from 1960-2005 \[U of Pretoria, 2016\]](#)  
Available to read for [free online, as well as download!!!](#)



[A Constitutional History of the Kingdom of Eswatini \(Swaziland\), 1960–1982 \[Palgrave Macmillan, 2019\]](#). - this is a major academic publisher

[Given what she says of her family in the "Acknowledgements"](#), p. xiii of the "Front Matter", Hlengiwe Dlamini is very well connected in Eswatini.

Chapter abstracts [are available at this webpage](#).  
as well as a pdf of the full "Preface" in the "Front Matter pp.i-xx".

Here is a pdf of ["Appendix A: King Sobhuza II's Speech of April 1960"](#) re: negotiations for the Swazi constitution in the "Back Matter pp.349-366."

Portions of the speech were published as **"The Ngwenyama, Sobhuza II C.B.E. Gives Expression to His Views on the Constitutional Future of Swaziland"**

(The Times of Swaziland, 1 July 1960, vol. 58, no. 27.)

As you will see, it turns out that already in 1960 it was clear that Sobhuza had his own plans for Eswatini's independence constitution, contrary to British plans for a "Westminster" style constitution, which the Brits had forced on all their other African colonies.

As you will see from her subtitle for a section in chpt 6 of her dissertation, p.283 - **"The Sobhuza II 12 April 1973 Auto-Coup d'état and the Death of Constitutionalism"** and the title for chpt 7 of her book, "From King Sobhuza II's Auto-Coup D'état to the Era of Constitutional Void and Royal Benevolent Despotism," Professor Dlamini is willing to be direct about what happened to the constitution and democracy in Eswatini.

Currently, Dlamini is working on a collection of papers for another book -

**The Making and Unmaking of Africa's Post Colonial Constitutions** - with Prof. NF Awasom of Cameroon, based on a conference she organized last year.

"[The Making, Unmaking and Remaking of Africa's Independence and Post-Independence Constitutions](#)", conference at the University of the Free State".

## **MORE NOTES** [Please add any you may find useful]

### [Politics and the Press: A Case Study of the Times of Swaziland and the Swazi Observer; 1992-1994](#)

Author: Sandile Sydwell Simelane Date: 1995

Place: Durban, South Africa Published: No

Type of product: Master Research Thesis in Cultural and Media Studies Copyright: Sandile Sydwell Simelane and Centre for Cultural and Media Studies, Durban, South Africa

[Swaziland a Failed](#) State Freedom House Swaziland Report 2013



## KEY DATES

This section has been updated and published online as it became too lengthy for this presentation.

[Significant Events in Swazi History of Protest »](#)

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