



April 16, 2026.

HANDS OFF NONTSETSELELO NKAMBULE

The Socialist Movement of Ghana condemns the fabricated criminal charges issued by the Royal Eswatini Police Service against Comrade Nontsetselelo Ncamsile Nkambule, Treasurer General of the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO–PYL) and a cadre of the People’s United Democratic Movement (PUDEMO). The “Wanted” notice of 15 April 2026, accusing Cde Ntsetse of kidnapping and attempted murder, is a fabrication. She is not wanted for a crime. She is wanted for her commitment to freedom, and the Mswati Tinkhundla regime knows it.

This is not an isolated event. It is the latest entry in a long and documented ledger of state terror. In June 2021, the regime massacred at least forty-six unarmed youth who marched for a constitution and the right to choose their own government. On 23 March 2022, Cde Ntsetse was abducted by more than forty police officers, stripped, and beaten. On 21 January 2023, human rights lawyer Cde Thulani Maseko was shot dead through the window of his home, in front of his wife and two young children. In 2024, PUDEMO President Cde Mlungisi Makhanya was poisoned at his home in exile in Pretoria. Today, MP Mduuzi Bacede Mabuza serves an eighty-five-year sentence, designated a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. The 1973 royal decree banning political parties has never been repealed. A regime that sentences parliamentarians to eighty-five years in prison does not have an opposition problem. It has a democracy problem, and it has chosen terror as its answer.

The immediate context must be named. King Mswati III intends to celebrate forty years on a throne the Swazi people never chose for him, on 24 April 2026. A leaked State Intelligence Unit operation, exposed by Swaziland News, plans to sweep pro-democracy activists from the streets between 14 and 24 April so the royal jubilee may proceed “without protests.” The charges against Cde Ntsetse are not a coincidence. They are a clearance operation. One



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billion emalangeni, close to fifty-five million US dollars, is allocated to the royal household annually, in a country where seventy per cent of the rural population lives in poverty, hospitals run out of basic drugs, and the youth inherit mass unemployment. The throne feasts. The people go without. And those who say so are charged as criminals.

This is not a domestic matter. South African sugar capital, through Tongaat Hulett and Illovo, and a century of migrant labour arrangements sustain the Tinkhundla order. Swaziland remains the only African state recognising Taiwan, in defiance of the African Union's One China position, a transactional arrangement that buys Mswati political cover while the Swazi people pay the price. SACU revenues, which have financed the throne for decades, have declined by 20.4 per cent in 2025/26. What we are witnessing is not the confidence of a system that is winning. It is the fear of one that is losing.

Kwame Nkrumah was clear: no African revolution is complete while any African people live under repressive, absolute domination. The PUDEMO project, started in 1983, is the continuation of the National Liberation Struggle. The Socialist Movement of Ghana stands without qualification in solidarity with that project and with the people of Swaziland.

We call on the Mswati Tinkhundla regime to immediately withdraw the charges against Cde Ntsetse, release all political prisoners including Mabuza, repeal the 1973 decree, and open unconditional negotiations leading to the adoption of a democratic constitution.

We call on the Government of Ghana, SADC, and the African Union to break their diplomatic silence and act decisively in defence of the democratic rights of the Swazi people.

We call on the Government of South Africa to extend material protection to Swazi democratic leaders on its soil and to honestly reckon with the role of South African capital in sustaining this order. Pretoria cannot claim a Pan-African foreign policy while its nearest neighbour brutalises a movement that organises on South African soil.



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We call on all trade unions, progressive organisations, and people of conscience in Ghana and across Africa to join the #HandsOffOurTG campaign and add their voices to the .

Hands off Cde Ntsetse. Hands off PUDEMO. Forward to a free Swaziland.

Kwesi Pratt, Jnr.
General Secretary.