

## **CPS Message of Solidarity to NEHAWU 12<sup>th</sup> National Congress**

3 November 2021

Comrades, the Communist Party of Swaziland brings you solidarity and socialist greetings for a good outcome to your important congress.

We are confident that you will hammer out ways forward for the Union at this very difficult time, when workers are under greater pressure due to the triple impacts of neoliberal policies, austerity and the fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Your congress will provide much substance for trade union struggles in our own country, Swaziland, as the pressures facing workers are in many ways similar.

The CPS pays particular tribute to the strength and resilience of NEHAWU in being a consistent voice and material force for international solidarity. This has been especially important to us, because NEHAWU has been a long-standing source of concrete solidarity for our Party. This has been crucial to our efforts to organise Party schools and conferences, which have enabled our comrades from inside Swaziland to take part and shape our work.

It is all too easy to forget that we as CPS are from an independent neighbouring country and are not a South African formation. Our work in exile has been inextricably shaped by our experiences of solidarity that we have encountered here in South Africa. We have learnt much.

Right now, the freedom struggle in Swaziland is intensifying. And as it does, as the people, especially the youth, have rallied for the demand for freedom and democracy, so the Mswati regime has cracked down hard.

We have lost over 100 - gunned down by the regime's security forces and police. Over 700 of our people are in detention without trial. But the regime is on the defensive - it is incapable of quelling the demand for the unbanning of all political parties, for free media, for the return of exiles and for the holding of free and fair elections.

Our slogan is Democracy Now! We have found that this has been taken up the length and breadth of our country, and we are organising to make Democracy Now and irresistible demand throughout all of Swazi society.

We won't go on now about all this. There will be opportunities to brief you in the Congress sessions. But we thank you for the great support you have given us.

As a party in exile, we feel that it won't be very long before we will be able to return to our country to build the freedom our people so badly need.

We are certain that NEHAWU's solidarity will continue as we enter a more mature and intense period of struggle to make this prospect a reality.

Long Live NEHAWU  
Long Live Internationalism  
Long Live Solidarity