



TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF SWAZILAND (TUCOSWA)

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30th April 2015

The Principal Secretary
Ministry of Labour and Social Security
P.O. Box 198
MBABANE

Dear Madam;

THREATENED INTERRUPTION OF MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS BY THE ROYAL SWAZILAND POLICE

1. On the **22nd April 2015**, a team from TUCOSWA met a team from the Royal Swaziland Police at their invitation, wherein we discussed the modalities of how this year's May Day celebrations would be held.
2. We urged the police not to interrupt the celebrations as they indicated that all depended on what their orders would be like.
3. On the **28th April 2015** we learnt from the media that the PRO of the Police, Assistant Superintendent Khulekani Mamba was assuring the nation that the celebrations would continue without interruption. The next day we learnt from the SBIS (which was confirmed by the print media today) that the police were actually making conditions that only registered unions (whether this was a misprint or lack of appreciation of the distinction by the journalists and/or the Police we are not sure) would be allowed to have the celebrations.
4. Whist we submitted our application for registration on the **1st December 2014**, it was only on the **31st March 2015** (three months after our submission), that the Ministry came back to us with request for further information. We submitted this on the **10th April 2015** and had a further request on the **22nd April, 2015** which we also submitted.

5. We had not expected this disruptive from the police in view of the forgoing, quite apart from the fact whether indeed it is registration that gives us (federations or unions) the right to celebrate.
6. Like previous disruptions on 6th September 2013, 30th November 2013, 28th February 2015 and 14th March 2015 (to name a few), despite having brought these matters to the attention of the Ministry, only for it to be met with silence, we urge the Government to intervene and avoid yet another development that would put the name of the country in a bad light for the world to see. We hope that the Government will appreciate that such actions as are threatened by the police can only cement the view that indeed the Government is not keen to correct the erratic behaviour of the Police, that surfaces now and then to violate our rights as workers—the very thing that threatens the country's trading markets as we saw with the loss of AGOA.
7. The Ministry and finally Government's reaction or lack thereof as regards our request for the Police to be properly guided not to be disruptive, will determine our next move as regards reporting the matter to the appropriate fora.
8. We have concluded our preparations, and have encouraged our members to turn up in their numbers to celebrate their day and not be prevented by actions that are at best unlawful but seemingly have the backing of the Government of the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Our members are geared for their celebrations and will not be prevented by threats from the Police.

Yours Faithfully



Vincent V. Ncongwane
Secretary General

Cc: The NOBs
The Director - ILO Pretoria Office
The Acting Commissioner of Labour
The Chief Executive Officer FSE/CC
The President FESBC
TUCOSWA Affiliates