

SWAZILAND

Polity5 regime codes:

fac	scode	polity	pers	bmon	bday	byear	emon	eday	eyear	exrec	exconst	polcomp
0a	SWA	-8	5	9	6	1968	4	12	1973	2	2	2
0b	SWA	-10	6	4	13	1973	1	20	1979	1	1	1
0c	SWA	-9	3	1	21	1979	8	21	1982	1	2	1
0d	SWA	-7	4	8	22	1982	4	24	1986	3	3	1
0e	SWA	-9	5	4	25	1986	10	9	1992	1	2	1
0f	SWA	-6	1	10	10	1992	11	3	1993	5	2	1
0g	SWA	-7	25	11	4	1993	99	99	9999	2	3	2

PITF Problem Events: none

0a) September 6, 1968 (independence) – King Sobhuza II formed the *Imbokodvo* National Movement (INM) in 1964 in preparation for the granting of self-government to Swaziland as a constitutional monarchy by British authorities. Parliamentary elections held April 19-20, 1967, resulted in the INM winning all twenty-four seats (the King appointed six additional members) amid complaints by the opposition Ngwane National Liberatory Council (NNLC, led by Dr. Ambrose Zwane) that it had been prevented from campaigning by the traditional authorities (the ethnic-European United Swaziland Association supported the royalist INM). Swaziland gained self-governance on April 25, 1967, and full independence on September 6, 1968. Swaziland's first post-independence elections were held on May 16-17, 1972, and the opposition NNLC managed to win three seats.

0b) April 13, 1973 (constitution repealed) – Although the King held uncontested executive authority and firm control of Parliament through its dominance by the royalist INM organization, the opening gained by the opposition as a result of the 1972 parliamentary election amplified criticism of the monarchy and tested its tolerance of dissent. King Sobhuza II announced on April 12, 1973, that he was repealing the constitution and assuming “supreme authority” over the government. All political parties and organizations were disbanded and political meetings were banned. On March 24, 1977, the King announced that he was abandoning his attempts to forge a constitutional system and resorting to traditional, tribal authority structures.

0c) January 21, 1979 (new government) – Surrounded on three sides by apartheid South Africa and on the fourth by a country consumed in civil war (Mozambique) and under pressure to deny safe haven to anti-apartheid ANC activists and dampen internal pressures, the King softened his absolutist stance and established a tribal representative system with indirect elections to an electoral college from which a new parliament could be drawn. The new, designated parliament and government were opened by the King on January 21, 1979.

0d) August 22, 1982 (death of the monarch; new government) – King Sobhuza II died on August 21, 1982, without publicly proclaiming an heir. Executive authority was assumed by the King's senior wife, Dzeliwe, as Queen Mother and Regent; she appointed a 15-member royal council (*Liqoqo*) and an advisor, Prince Sozisa. From the beginning, rivalries within the royal family (the King had over one hundred wives and some seventy sons) led to maneuverings for influence and attempts to assume control. On August 9, 1983, the *Liqoqo* replaced Queen Mother Dzeliwe with another of the King's widows, Ntombi, the mother of young Prince Makhosetive who was named heir the following day. Intrigues continued to plague the governing council in the absence of a monarch.

0e) April 25, 1986 (coronation of new monarch) – Eighteen-year old Prince Makhosetive was crowned King Mswati III on April 25, 1986, in a private ceremony at the royal residence, Lusaseni. The new King moved quickly to consolidate his authority, disbanding the *Liqoqo* royal council on May 27, 1986.

0f) October 10, 1992 (caretaker government) – Popular pressure to reform the traditionalist monarchy led the King to dissolve the appointed parliament and establish a caretaker government on October 9, 1992. The new government was tasked with drafting a new constitution and preparing for direct elections. The King refused, however, to consider lifting the ban on political parties.

0g) November 4, 1993 (new dual government) – Direct “no party” parliamentary elections were held on September 18 and October 11, 1993, in which members of the royal family were barred from standing for election. The King continued the former practice of reserving several seats for royal appointment and the head of government was chosen by the King from among his appointees. Opposition to the monarchist government is organized mainly by the trade unions but activism is largely, effectively suppressed, although strikes and protests occur fairly frequently. In 1996, a Constitutional Review Committee was formed and its recommendations resulted in a new constitution, finally, on July 26, 2005, that simply reflects conventional practice. Political parties and organization remain banned.