Primeminister

H.E Cleopas Dlamini

Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini

P.O Box A33, Swazi Plaza H101

Mbabane

ESWATINI

March 2023

**Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube**

Dear Honourable Prime Minister,

I am writing to bring to your attention the continued arbitrary detention of two Members of Parliament (MPs) Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube.

The two MPs’ arrests came amid a wave of protests sparked in June 2021 calling for political reform. Their arrest came shortly after they made speeches advocating for the election of the Prime Minister of Eswatini instead of one being appointed by the King. They advocated for the amendment of the constitution to provide to this election.

The two were arrested on the evening of 25 July 2021 and stand accused of contravening section 5(1) of the suppression of terrorism act of 2008, contravening section 4(b) of the sedition and subversive activities act of 1938, trumped up murder charges for the killing of Siphosethu Mntshali and Thando Shongwe on 29 June 2021, as well as contravening regulation 4 of the disaster management regulations under the disaster management act 01/2006. I understand that the two MPs were nowhere near the scene of the car accident that claimed the lives of Siphosethu Mntshali and Thando Shongwe on 29 June 2021.

The meeting in relation to the charge of contravening regulation 4 of the disaster management regulations, was not organised by Mduduzi Bacede Mabuza and Mthandeni Dube, they were merely attendees. Their multiple bail application including an appeal to the Supreme court of Eswatini were unsuccessful. Their trial ended on 31 January and judgment was withheld indefinitely while they remain in custody.

I urge you to immediately and unconditionally release MP Bacede Mabuza and MP Mthandeni Dube and drop all charges against them as their prosecution stems from the exercise of their human rights. Pending their release, I urge you to order a prompt, impartial, independent, and effective investigation into the attack carried out against them and the other prisoners on 22 September 2022, ensuring those responsible are held to account.

Yours sincerely,

CC: S.E. Herrn Sibusisiwe Mingomezulu 188, Av. Winston Churchill 1180 Brüssel BELGIEN