

The Co-ordinating Assembly of

*Non-governmental  
Organisations (CANGO)*



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Edwards Street  
P.O. Box A67  
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Mbabane  
Swaziland

Phone: 404 4721/6586

**01<sup>st</sup> October, 2008**

**Dear Colleagues and Partners,**

**THE SOUTHERN AFRICA SOCIAL FORUM, 2008 TO BE HELD IN MANZINI,  
SWAZILAND ON THE 16-18 OCTOBER 2008**

The Swaziland Economic Justice Network (SEJN), a loose network of Civil Society Organisations working in the area of Economic Justice in Swaziland and hosted by the Coordinating Assembly of Non-Governmental Organisations (CANGO) will be hosting the Southern Africa Social Forum (SASF 2008) in Manzini (Mavuso International Trade Fair), Swaziland on the **16-18<sup>th</sup> October, 2008**.

The Southern Africa Social Forum is a regional platform and open space for civil society organisations in the region to meet and critically engage issues that affect development in the region. It is a space where people's issues are taken to an advanced level as alternatives are discussed and adopted. It is organised along the principles of the World Social Forum and the Africa Social Forum.

**Purpose of the Forum**

The Social Forum is an open space (imbizo or big indaba) for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, free exchange of experiences and strategising for effective action, by groups and movements of civic society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capitalism, and are committed to building a planetary society directed towards fruitful relationship among humankind.

At this forum, regional networks are going to learn and share their strategies and tactics for effective mobilisations against neo-liberalism. The theme and focus of deliberations for the SASF 2008 will be around, "**People's Solidarity Against Poverty and Oppression**".

## The Forum

The collective workshops, conferences, seminars and demonstrations will focus on the following sub-themes as per the endorsement of the Regional Organising Committee in its meeting held in Manzini, Swaziland of the 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2008:

- Xenophobia
- Food Crisis
- Human Trafficking
- Cross-border trading by informal traders
- Regional Integration
- COMESA, SACU, ESA – regional versus national interests
- Regional peace and stability
- Democratisation and Elections
- Civil society for poverty reduction
- Food security and land
- Debt and trade – regional integration
- Education
- Gender
- Governance
- Labour
- HIV/AIDS & Health
- Human rights
- World trade agreements / global policies
- Economic Partnership Agreements
- Social Mobilisation
- Global warming and climate change
- AID and Trade including the Chinese invasion
- Social/economic migration

The collective deliberations will be interspersed with a variety of entertainment events, such as, theatre, dance and music by local and sub-regional groups.

## Participation

Participation is open and free to all social movements, networks, NGOs, FBOs, CBOs from SADC and beyond. The organisers have made available limited space for organisations that wish to render items or facilitate sessions on their individual struggles and share their strategies and tactics with the rest of SADC. Organisations are expected to indicate their interest in doing so by submitting a one paragraph concept for each session to the organisers at [dfwbzweni@yahoo.com](mailto:dfwbzweni@yahoo.com) or [economist@cango.org.sz](mailto:economist@cango.org.sz).

## **Programme**

The programme framework is proposed as follows;

### **DAY ONE: 16th October**

#### **Session One**

**Opening session:** all converge at the open Arena in front of Trade Fair, alternatively the main hall depending on weather and facilities

#### **Session Two**

Eight commissions (workshops, seminars, meetings or demonstrations) in the various pavilions across thematic groups

#### **Session Three**

Eight commissions (workshops, seminars, meetings or demonstrations) in the various pavilions across thematic groups

#### **Session Four**

Panel Discussion: Regional Solidarity Against Poverty and Oppression  
ALL converge at the **Main Hall**: to be convened by SAPSN

#### **Session Five-Evening**

Culture Night: Regional groupings demonstrate cultural diversity

### **DAY TWO: 17th October-International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

#### **Session One**

Eight commissions (workshops, seminar, meetings or demonstrations) in the various pavilions across thematic groups

#### **Session Two**

Eight commissions (workshops, seminar, meetings or demonstrations) in the various pavilions across thematic groups

#### **Session Three**

Eight commissions (workshops, seminar, meetings or demonstrations) in the various pavilions across thematic groups

## Session Four

Panel Discussion: The State of Democracy and Human Rights in the Region  
ALL converge at the **Main Hall**:

## Session Five-Evening

**Club Night: Participants sample Swaziland Night Life**

## DAY Three

1. Protest March: Reclaiming SADC, Peoples Solidarity Against Poverty and Oppression  
March from Mavuso, via Manzini Club, down to Waste Centre finally Bosco Centre
2. Commission reports and recommendations
3. Reading of forum declaration
4. Speeches and closing remarks<sup>1</sup>

Further deliberation and correspondence on this subject is welcome. Participants are reminded to double check with their immigration offices if they require VISA's to enter into Swaziland. A list of accommodation facilities is attached to this correspondence to enable groups and individuals to book for their stay here. The organising committee regrets that it has not been able to mobilise funds to assist participants with accommodation, meals or transport.

I am looking forward to welcoming you all to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

Yours Sincerely,



**Emmanuel Ndlangamandla (Mr)**  
**Executive Director**



## S.A SOCIAL FORUM 2008 ACCOMODATION DATA BASE

### **Swaziland Catholic Centre - Manzini**

**Telephone: (0268) 505-6900**

3km to the venue

Public transport costs R30.00 return

Double Rooms to accommodate 32 people @ R160.00/Room

Domitres to accommodate 60 people @ R25.00/person (own bedding)

Breakfast @ R26.50/person                      Supper @ R35.50/person

### **Shosholoza Conference Centre - Manzini**

**Telephone: (0268) 505-2417/608-5735**

3km to the venue

Public transport costs R30.00 return

2 Double Rooms to accommodate 4 people @ R200.00/Room

74 single beds @ R80.00/person

Breakfast @ R25.00/person                      Supper @ R35.50/person

Deposit is required to confirm booking

### **Global Village Guest House - Manzini Telephone: (0268) 505-2226 Fax: 505-3124**

3km to the venue

Public transport costs R10.00 return

Single Room, not sharing @ R330.00 including breakfast

Double Room @ R500.00 including breakfast

### **Crystal Guest House - Manzini Telephone: (0268) 505-9662**

5km to the venue

Public transport costs R10.00 return

To accommodate 30 people

10 people or more @ R120.00/person/night including breakfast

Single @ R150.00/night                      Double @ R270.00/night

### **Mbabane Church Youth Centre.**

**Telephone: (0268) 404-2176. Fax: 404-4418**

35km to the venue

Public transport costs R30.00 return

55 people for 4 nights @ R102.00/person/night including breakfast @ supper.

### **Thokoza Anglican Conference Centre - Mbabane.**

**Telephone: (0268) 404-6681/4440**

35km to the venue

Public transport costs R30.00 return

Double, including breakfast @ R218.00/room

Single, including breakfast @ R181.00/person

Ensuite Double, including breakfast @ R253.00

Ensuite Single, including breakfast @ R216.00

Supper @ R47.00

### **PARK HOTEL - Manzini**

**Telephone: (0268) 505-4250**

3km to the venue

Public transport costs R10.00 return

Single Rooms for 36 people including Breakfast @ R295.00/person

Supper @ R68.00

**MADONSA GUEST HOUSE - Manzini**

**Telephone: (0268) 505-3725**

3km to the venue

Public transport costs R10.00 Return

2 people sharing a room@ R175.00/person

Supper @ R85.00

**ESIBAYENI LODGE - Matsapha -**

**Telephone: (0268) 505-9199**

8km to the venue

Public transport costs R15.00 return

Accommodation, Dinner, Breakfast for 20 people for 4 nights for R30,894.00

**TUM'S GEORGE HOTEL - Manzini -**

**Telephone: (0268) 505-2260 Fax: 5059226**

4 km to the venue at a cost of R10.00 for public transport

Single Room, including BB @ R450.00

Double Room, including BB @ E650.00

Supper @ E95.00

**KAI-KAI GUEST HOUSE - Manzini**

**Tell – (+268) 6048591**

5km to the venue

Public transport costs R10.00 return

Single Room, (sharing toilets) @ R120.00

Single Room @R180.00

Single Room, (with TV) @ R200.00

Food can be purchased at a restaurant in the same complex.