

Swaziland

Rice

Swaziland, which had been a monarchy prior to and during British colonization, became independent in 1968. Prior to that, the British had worked with the Imbokodovo National Movement (INM) to create a constitution and arrange a new governmental structure. The INM was supported by the Swazi monarch and the other traditional Swazi leaders. However, in the first post-independence elections, the Ngwane National Liberatory Congress, an opposition party, won 20 percent of the vote, gaining it three seats in the national parliament. In response to this, King Sobhuza (a member of the Nkozi-Dlamini Dynasty who had been on the throne since 1921) abolished the 1968 constitution and dissolved Parliament, absorbing all powers of government into the monarchy (United States Department of State, 2010). Geddes classifies Swaziland as a monarchy from 1968 until the present day. According to Morby (2002) there is only “Nkosi-Dlamini Dynasty” since 1815 to present. All kings during this period are sons or brothers of previous kings.

In 1982, King Sobhuza died. He was initially replaced by Queen Regent Dzeliwe as head of state. This is not a SOLS change. Swazi Kings have multiple wives, and after an internal dispute in 1983, Dzeliwe was replaced by Queen Regent Ntombi, whose only child was named the successor to the throne (at the time, his name was Prince Makhosetive). Queen Regent Ntombi dismissed the leading figures of the Liqoqo, a traditional advising body that claimed to give binding advice to the Queen Regent, in 1985 (United States Department of State, 2010). Later that year, Prince Makhosetive returned from abroad to ascend to the throne. In 1986, he was enthroned as King Mswati III. This is not a SOLS change. He then abolished the Liqoqo. A new parliament, which is chosen partly through indirect elections and partly by the king, convened in 1987.

King Mswati III remains on the throne in the present day. In Swaziland, the monarch holds supreme legislative, executive and judicial power, but he does have a cabinet. There is also a prime minister, who jointly with the cabinet and King, exercise executive power (United States Department of State, 2010).

References

Morby, John E. 2002. *Dynasties of the World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

United States Department of State. “Country Background Note: Swaziland”. Last edited 9 June 2010.
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