

# GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI



## ACTING PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT

Government is highly concerned with the events that have afflicted our country in the past few days. While we continue to advocate and promote the full expression of all constitutional and human rights, including the right to protest, we cannot condone the attacks on emaSwati and their property.

The current riots are also a violation of the COVID-19 Regulations that are in place to save lives against the deadly virus. The riots have degenerated into criminality and are infringing on many basic and social rights of emaSwati, including, but not limited to food security, safety, health care and business.

The damage to property that has occurred does not only affect livelihoods, it further puts the Kingdom's efforts to mitigate and minimize the economic challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in jeopardy.

The property and infrastructure that has been destroyed is the bedrock of any thriving and sustainable economy. We continue to appeal for people to refrain from looting and damaging infrastructure.

While the issues that are being raised have been received and are getting necessary attention with the seriousness they deserve, it does not warrant the actions that are currently taking place.

Government has tightened security to reclaim the rule of law, peace and to protect all emaSwati. We will continue not to tolerate the looting, arson, violence and all other forms of criminality that are directed at business and people's property. We have had to call in the army to protect critical national infrastructure and to enforce COVID-19 regulations. There has been no martial law that has been declared.



The office of the Prime Minister is yet to receive official reports about alleged deaths due to the riots. We will investigate these allegations.

We ask emaSwati not to take the law into their own hands as this can lead to a further escalation.

The public and media is also urged to be wary of unverified and inaccurate information as this is fueled by forces that are determined to push through their agenda by all means necessary.

**THEMBA N. MASUKU**

**Acting Prime Minister**

01 July 2021