

# My Beautiful Country

## ~kingdom of Swaziland

• Miss Vilakati

By. *Nosisa Thembumenzi Vilakati*  
International Health Program, NYMU

Nestled in the valleys, the savannas and mountains of Southern Africa, is the beautiful kingdom of Swaziland. It is home to the friendliest people who embrace you as their own welcoming you into their home. The sense of family and unity is evident even as you walk in the streets and you get to experience what we call in Africa 'Ubuntu' meaning humanity towards others.

and Manzini being the principal commercial and industrial city center. The official languages in the country are SiSwati and English.

The climate in Swaziland varies from region to region, being temperate in the west and sub-tropical in the east. The Highveld region, in the west, is mountainous and has landscape features such as waterfalls and gorges. Warm and wet summers with dry winters are experienced here. Forestry is largely practiced in this area. The sub-tropical Middleveld has fertile valleys and a much warmer climate ideal for agricultural activity. The Lowveld in the east is the largest climatic region and also has a sub-tropical climate. It is more prone to drought but the Swazi cash crop, Sugar cane, is commercially grown here. Cattle farming is actively done here as well. The Lubombo region is the smallest area bordering Mozambique and it characterized by mountainous scenery.

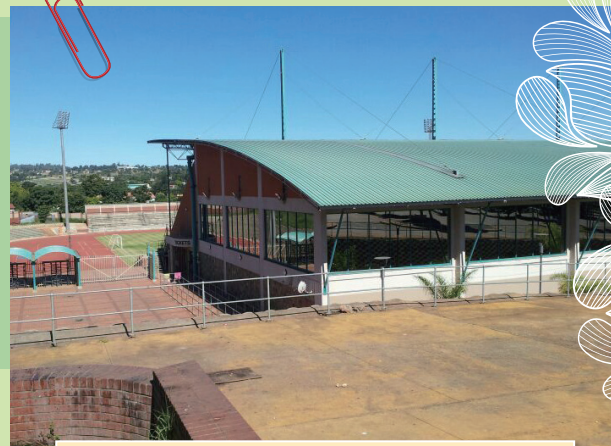
The earliest inhabitants of the land were the hunter-gatherers known as the Khoisan. Later on, they

Swaziland is a land-locked country boarded to the north, south and west by South Africa and to the east by Mozambique. It has a land area of approximately 17,364 square kilometers. The estimated population as of 2011 is around 1.2 million. There are two major cities in Swaziland, Mbabane and Manzini. Mbabane is the capital city

• My friends relaxing on an educational trip



• The Swazi landscape highlighting the abundance of mountains and valleys



• A view of the Mavuso Trade Center Sports Ground in Manzini

were replaced by the Bantu tribes and these people originated from the Great Lakes of East Africa. The Bantu people that inhabit Swaziland today are the Swazis. These are the descendants of the southern Bantu who migrated from Central Africa in the 15th and 16th century. The country name was derived from the 19th century King Mswati II. Alternative names for the country are Ngwane and ESwatini.

Swaziland was a British protectorate from 1902 up until gaining independence in 1968. Today, Independence Day is commemorated on the 6th of September of each year. The British influence in the country is still present today, from English being the

second official language after SiSwati to the use of the British judicial system.

The head of state is currently His Majesty King Mswati III. He ascended to the throne in 1986 after the death of his beloved father King Sobhuza II in 1982. The king reigns along with his mother, The Queen Mother (*Indlovukati*). The King is the administrative head of state and the Queen Mother is the spiritual and national head of state. The King appoints the prime minister and certain members of the Senate. The House of Assembly members are elected every five years by the public.



• The Redeemed Christian Church of God in the hub of Swaziland, Manzini





• Maidens bringing the Reed to the Queen Mother at Reed Dance ceremony (Photo: 殷士閔)



• Royal maidens dancing at Reed Dance ceremony (Photo: 呂柏億)

Swaziland is an agriculture-based country meaning the economy relies heavily on the agricultural sector. Sugar cane farming is an important source of income for the nation as it is the main export product. The Swazi Economy is largely dependent on the Republic of South Africa therefore it is of utmost priority that the good relation between these two nations is sustained. The Lilangeni is the Swazi currency and it is on par with the South African Rand.

Tourism also plays a vital role in the Swazi Economy as many tourists are keen to experience the spectacular scenery, wildlife and culture of Southern Africa's beautiful kingdom. The Swazi



• (Photo: 呂柏億)



• (Photo: 阿布)



• (Photo: 林書弘)



• (Photo: 阿布)






• Africa's largest exposed granite rock, Sibebe Rock, found in Swaziland (Photo : 阿布)

landscape consists of extensive mountain ranges, enormous rock formations, waterfalls, rivers to lush fertile fields. Africa's largest exposed granite rock, Sibebe Rock, is found here. Since the earliest inhabitants of the land were the Khoisan, they left their mark behind as evident by the wonderfully detailed rock paintings that have been preserved in caves found in the country. The wildlife of Swaziland is absolutely magnificent with the presence of the 'Big Five' animals, to bird spotting, this is all found in the nature reserves and you get to experience nature at its best.

Africa is rich in culture and Swaziland is no exception as the Swazi people clearly illustrate this point. Traditional festivals such as Umhlanga (**Reed Dance**) and Incwala are still celebrated today as visitors marvel at the spectacle and admire the Swazi people donning their vibrant and colorful traditional regalia.



• My cousins, brother, a friend and I !  
Having a good time !

Swaziland is a small country with people that possess big, welcoming hearts. There may be challenges at hand that need to be addressed and solutions that need to be made but with the spirit of unity and hope, surely, we can count that as an essential achievement towards future progression. 



• My brother and father having a laugh at home !