

Police union boss faces jail

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**MBABANE – The unregistered Police union’s chief, Khanyakwezwe Mhlanga, has until next week Friday to convince the High Court why he should not be jailed.**

Should he fail to do so, Mhlanga will be jailed for 30 days in His Majesty’s Correctional Services (HMCS).

This is an interim order by Justice Jacobus Annandale.

Mhlanga, who also serves as Secretary General of the Swaziland Police Union (SWAPU), is expected to file his response to the High Court before October 10, 2008. The interim order shall be final in the event Mhlanga fails to comply.

The order was issued following an application by Police Commissioner Edgar Hillary where he sought Mhlanga’s arrest for alleged contempt of court. Hillary was of the view that the SWAPU secretary was in contempt of orders of the court which had ruled that SWAPU was an illegal entity.

Mhlanga’s crime, according to Hillary, was calling junior officers in the Royal Swaziland Police (RSP) under the SWAPU banner to a protest march. The march, which was scheduled for September 26, 2008 had been to protest the non-payment of junior officers’ back pay. The money was in relation to a salary adjustment of 15 percent, which was supposed to be backdated by three years, but it was only backdated for two months.

#### **reasons**

The officers claimed to have not received any response from their superiors on reasons why they were not given the back pay. They also tried their luck with the Prime Minister’s office, in his capacity as Minister of Police, but there was no positive response there again. In fact, government did not take the petition brought by the officers.

As a last resort, the officers then met and decided to march to Hillary to seek responses from the horse’s mouth. However, that was not to be as the Police Commissioner ran to court to interdict the industrial action.