

# Mswati III

Royal palace, Ludzidzini

Born: 19 April 1968

## SWAZILAND

King



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## Training/education

**25 April 1986:** Crowned king, ruling at first with his mother Ndlovukazi (“Great She–Elephant”).

**Until 1986:** Private primary and secondary education.

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## Professional experience

**January 2006:** Orders arrest and trial (for high treason and attempted murder) of more than a dozen opponents accused of throwing petrol bombs at government buildings.

**2005–06:** Demands that government refurbish his palaces and build 11 more for his wives.

**14 November 2003:** Approves new national constitution, which still does not allow political parties (banned by his father King Sobhuza II in 1973) and says Swaziland is unsuited for democracy.

**December 2002:** Buys \$45 million plane (double the country’s health budget), setting off general strike.

**2002:** Has one of his wives kidnapped after she leaves him.

**22 June 2001:** Decrees that publications can be banned without giving a reason and without legal proceedings and rules out bail for journalists accused of “disturbing public order” or “threatening state security.”

**May 2001:** Suspends monthly *Nation* and weekly *Guardian*.

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## Hobbies/interests

Looking after his 13 wives, his luxury vehicles and private jet plane. He and his wives have 20 BMW cars and a specially-fitted Daimler-Chrysler costing a total \$500,000. Recent UN figures show a quarter of all Swazis face starvation in a country with a 33.4% HIV/AIDS infection rate.

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