



Music as a Political Expression in Eswatini's Transitional Periods: A Mixed-Methods Inquiry

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Published: 16 May 2012 | **Received:** 17 January 2012 | **Accepted:** 29 April 2012

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DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.18979480](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18979480)

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Abstract

Music plays a significant role in political expression across various societies, including those undergoing transitions. In Eswatini (Swaziland), music has historically been used as a tool for social and political commentary. The research employs both qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys to gather data. Interviews were conducted with musicians and community leaders, while survey responses were collected from a representative sample of the population. Music during transitional periods in Eswatini often reflects political discontent or aspirations for change. Analysis revealed that approximately 60% of respondents perceived music as an important channel for expressing dissent against government policies. This study underscores the utility of music as a medium for political expression and highlights its importance in shaping public opinion during periods of societal transition. Policy-makers should consider the role of music in fostering dialogue and understanding between citizens and the government, potentially integrating cultural initiatives into their strategies for social cohesion.

Keywords: *Africanization, Ethnography, Grounded Theory, Participatory Action Research, Reflexivity, Symbolic Interactionism, Transdisciplinary Inquiry*

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