



**premier**

Office Of The Premier  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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## **MEDIA ALERT**

**DATE : 22 APRIL 2013**  
**TO : ALL MEDIA**  
**EMBARGO : IMMEDIATE**

### **KZN PREMIER HANDS OVER HOUSE TO 118 YEAR OLD WAR VETERAN**

As the country observes Freedom Month, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Dr Zweli Mkhize will hand over a rebuilt house to Mkhulu Themba Bernard Mkhize, a 118 year old veteran of the Second World War.

Mkhulu Mkhize (no relation to Dr Mkhize) was born in May 12, 1895 and is one of many unsung heroes who were involved in many battles including the II World War.

It is amazing that he has lived so long and he is able to share his vast experience with the current generation of leaders and young people.

He is the son of the Late Ngxav'emuntwini Petros Mkhize and Nobathakathi Maria Memela. Mkhulu Mkhize was married in 1932 at the age of 37 to a woman from a royal family known as "KWAMBEKWA" in Matiwane near Ladysmith.

In their marriage, they were blessed with 13 children where amazingly, his wife bore three sets of twins.

He started school at Maria Trot in South Coast and then went to St Joseph mission where he only passed Standard one and that was the end of his schooling experience.

After leaving school, Mkhize started working as a gardener and domestic worker for White people. As time went on, he found himself being able to speak and understand the then seven official languages. By now, he worked in assisting in translation of letters into other languages as well as in communication problems. For several times, he would ride his bicycle to work and especially when buses to town went on strike, "I used to ride it to Peters, Embumbulu, and Steadville. Although this helped him in getting a better life, things did not turn up the way he expected them to be. He became the famous slave and prisoner who spoke several languages.

Mr Mkhize is still alive and looking stronger than his peers or people of his age. He will be 118 years old in May this year and this might have been because of the belief that when you respect your parents and elders, you will live a long life.

Mr Mkhize has achieved many medals for taking part as well as being a hero in World War II. "These are the medals that show and prove that I was really fighting in World War II."

All media invited to attend.



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Details are as follows:

**DATE** : 23 April 2013  
**VENUE** : C 2560, Ezakheni Township, Ladysmith  
**TIME** : 10.00am

**Issued by the Office of the Premier**

**RSVP:**

**Mr Regi Khumalo**

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