

KZN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IRONS OUT DIFFERENCES WITH HEADMEN OVER PAY

KZN Premier Senzo Mchunu presided over a meeting which resolved a longstanding disagreement over pay with headmen (izinduna). The meeting was held in the province's capital with an interim body representing izinduna in the province.

The Premier told the delegation of izinduna that his government will under no circumstances undermine the role played by headmen in the development of the province's communities.

He vowed that his government will pull all the stops to ensure that both izinduna and the provincial government are on the same page with regards to allowance determined for headmen.

Mchunu said his government has resolved to pay all izinduna R1300 while the matter is being finalised. In the past only izinduna serving in traditional councils were receiving an allowance of R1300 per month.

"Given the seriousness of this matter and the respect we have for izinduna, we have discussed the matter with the President. We have explained to him the challenges we are facing as the provincial government on this issue. He is keen to meet with the delegation of izinduna to talk about this matter," said Mchunu.

The meeting will be arranged soon. Izinduna are asked to be patient as all government resources and how they are expended, must be properly budgeted for. There should also be a law that will govern the whole process. This is not a delaying tactic as some would believe, but a measure to ensure that everything is based on legality.

Mchunu also drew attention of the entire institution of traditional leadership to the fact that it was only under a democratic government that the institution was legally recognised.

"We pride ourselves of the journey we have travelled with izinduna and amakhosi in transforming the institution of traditional leadership. Indeed this institution is totally different from what it was before 1994. We have got a good story to tell," said Mchunu.

The KZN provincial government is proposing permanent structures for izinduna to engage with the provincial government departments whenever there are issues that need to be ironed out. There is no need for izinduna to march in protest against their government.

Mchunu similarly implored all izinduna to continue working with his government because they are indispensable in advancing the agenda of development in the rural areas of KZN.

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