

11 February 2026

Mr A.T. Ntuli
Premier
Province of KwaZulu-Natal
300 Langalibalele Street
Moses Mabhida Building
PIETERMARITZBURG
3201

Honourable Premier Ntuli

REQUEST FOR URGENT ACTION TO BE TAKEN TO ENSURE SAFETY OF IZINDUNA

I trust this letter finds you well. My letter dated 22 May 2025, as well as your letter of 17 June 2025, serve as reference.

On 27 January 2026, AfriForum wrote an urgent letter to Mr T Biyela, Acting Director: Traditional Affairs, Northern Districts, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, informing him that Ndunankulu M.T. Mpungose of the Mpungose Traditional Council had been threatened with a firearm and that rumours were circulating in the community that both Ndunankulu Mpungose and Induna M.S. Mahaye had been suspended. Please see the attached letter for full details. I received no response to that letter other than an acknowledgement of receipt.

Members of the Mpungose Traditional Community were subsequently invited to a meeting on Wednesday, 4 February 2026, at which it was announced that Ndunankulu Mpungose had been removed as induna. At a second meeting on Sunday, 8 February 2026, community members were informed that Induna Mahaye had also been removed as induna. AfriForum was informed that reasonable notice of these meetings had not even been given to all community members served by these izinduna.

The actions taken in respect of these izinduna are endangering their lives and are not in compliance with the KwaZulu-Natal Traditional Leadership and Governance Act (No. 5 of 2005). I quote some of the most relevant sections of the Act that were not complied with:

21(4) A traditional leader may only be removed from office on the grounds set out in subsections- (l)(d), (e) or (f) above after an inquiry in terms of section 23.

23(2) The charge referred to in subsection (1) must-

(a) set out particulars of the allegations which have been made against the traditional leader; and

(3) If the traditional leader denies the charge or fails to respond thereto within the specified time, the responsible Member of the Executive Council must appoint a presiding officer to conduct an enquiry into the allegations.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30**Member Affairs – Email:** ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.**Registration number:** 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

(4) The presiding officer appointed in terms of subsection (3) above must convene an enquiry into the allegations, and must give the traditional leader who has been charged no less than 14 days notice of the date, time and place of the enquiry.

(5) At the enquiry the traditional leader charged must be granted the right to be heard, either personally or through a legal representative, and may cross-examine any person called as a witness by the presiding officer conducting the enquiry, inspect any document produced in evidence, give evidence in person, and call any other persons as witnesses.

AfriForum is extremely concerned for the safety of these izinduna and the communities they serve, as well as for other amakhosi, izinduna and communities in the province facing similar circumstances. AfriForum is concerned about the devastating effect that the erosion of traditional leadership and the creation of division between izinduna and amakhosi will have on the well-being and stability of grassroots communities and on Zulu custom, tradition and cultural identity.

AfriForum hereby requests that your office:

- urgently take the required steps to ensure the safety of the above-mentioned izinduna;
- prevent further illegal, irregular and unjust actions from being taken against the above-named izinduna and other izinduna who might face similar actions; and
- initiate an urgent and comprehensive investigation into the matter of the growing chasm between izinduna and amakhosi and the removal of izinduna.

Many families and communities in KwaZulu-Natal have suffered the murder of a traditional leader: both amakhosi and izinduna. It can rightfully be described as a terrible scourge. However, actions taken by those in authority do not appear to correspond with the seriousness of the situation.

We urge you to take the necessary steps to prevent further bloodshed. As Premier of the province, you have both the authority and the responsibility to do so.

AfriForum is prepared to enter into discussions with your office with the object of exploring avenues of collaboration with a view to contributing to a solution to this serious matter.

Your most urgent attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours respectfully

Barend P. Uys
Head: Intercultural Relations and Cooperation
AfriForum