

First Indian acting premier



MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravi Pillay.
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THE MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravi Pillay, became the first Indian acting premier in KwaZulu-Natal when he stepped in for Willies Mchunu.

Mchunu is in Mozambique to renew a current Memorandum of Understanding between Maputo and KZN, which expires next month.

Pillay was sworn in to the position by the Deputy Judge President of the KZN Division of the High Court, Mjabuliseni Isaac Madondo, on Monday and it will end on Thursday upon Mchunu's return.

The MEC said the opportunity had promoted non-racialism.

"It is all about uniting people and building the coun-

try. Although I will be in the position for a few days, it shows the institution has confidence in me to man this position and make whatever necessary changes if need be. It is well appreciated to be trusted with this task and very symbolic but it also happens with protocol where I have to step in," said Pillay.

He will jointly continue with his duties as MEC.

"Acting premier is an active position and if there are any urgent matters under any of the titles, I will see to it."

Pillay had also congratulated the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius on its 50th anniversary of gaining independence on Monday.

The country also marked its 26th anniversary as a Republic.