

Premier axes MECs

By **WILLEM PHUNGULA, BULELWA GININDZA and MPHO BILWANE**

NEW ANC premiers were sworn in and took office in three provinces yesterday. KZN's Sihle Zikalala wasted no time in ringing the changes to his cabinet.

The political futures of Mthandeni Dlungwana, Weziwe Thusi and Themba Mthembu look uncertain after being axed as MECs by Zikalala.

Zikalala dropped Dlungwana as education MEC in favour of KZN ANC Youth League chairman Kwazi Mshengu. Thusi was replaced as social development MEC by provincial ANC Women's League chairwoman Nonhlanhla Khoza, and Mthembu was replaced as agriculture MEC by former arts and culture MEC Bongsi Sithole-Moloi.

Hlengiwe Mavimbela was named new arts and culture MEC, while ANC provincial secretary Sipho Hlomuka took over co-operative governance and traditional affairs from Nomusa Dube-Ncube. Dube-Ncube took over Zikalala's former role as economic development and tourism MEC.



Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtsweni was sworn in.

Photo by Bongani Mthimunye

Provincial ANC spokeswoman Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu took over the health portfolio from Si-bongiseni Dhlomo and Peggy Nkonyeni replaced Ravi Pillay as public works and human settlements MEC. Belinda Scott, who did not return to the legislature, was replaced as finance MEC by Pillay.

In North West, Premier Job Mokgoro said he would establish a provincial war room to deal with service delivery problems.

He said he was committed to running a clean government.

Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Tsipane said after her swearing in that the ANC's decision to expropriate land without compensation heralded a new beginning for the country.

"A new dawn is upon us and the winds of change have begun," she said.