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`ORDERED`!

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KZN new MEC for Sport, Art and Culture Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.

Dr Mahlaba, just what KZN artists 'ORDERED'!

By **JABULANI LANGA**

THE KZN Creative and Cultural Industry Federation of South Africa (CCIFSA) has welcomed the appointment of the new MEC for Sport, Art, and Culture, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba.

Dr Mahlaba, who is a medical doctor by profession, was announced by acting Premier Nomagugu Simelane at the Office of the Premier in Durban on Tuesday, 23 May.

He replaces former MEC Amanda Bani Mapena, who resigned last month after eight months in office.

CCIFA KZN chairman Thokozani "Tzozo" Zulu told *Daily Sun* that they welcome the appointment of the new MEC.

"We are happy that finally we have a new MEC. We hope that he will have a good working relationship with us as stakeholders," he said.

Tzozo, who is also a legendary kwaito musician, said they want Dr Mahlaba to fix the late payment of artists when they are booked by the KZN government.

"We want the payments within 30 days. We want the department to not only focus on musicians, but on the whole creative industry including actors, fashion, photographers, drawers, painters and many more," he said.

Dr Mahlaba was the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works before his appointment, and he is also a former mayor of Newcastle Local Municipality.

His position was filled by Siphiso Nkosi as the new MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works.

Simelane said Dr Mahlaba has an extensive experience as a government leader. "Both MECs are community leaders and activists who have worked in various strategic sectors."

"They have in-depth knowledge of the challenges confronting government and we expect them to fulfil their tasks with integrity while placing the interests of the people of KZN foremost in the work that they do," she said.

