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Title: WE WILL WALK THIS JOURNEY TOGETHER SAYS
NEW KZN PREMIER

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'We will walk this journey together', says new KZN premier

**CLIVE NDOU AND
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KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thami Ntuli says the new unity provincial government will work together to build trust and deliver to the people of the province.

At the KZN Legislature elections, presided over by Judge President Thoba Portia Poyodlati, the 41 MPLs belonging to the provincial unity government elected Ntuli, who is the IFP provincial chairperson, as the new premier.

ANC provincial executive committee (PEC) member, Nontembeko Boyce, was elected as speaker and DA MPL, Mmabatho Tembe, was elected as deputy speaker.

The provincial unity government block faced a challenge from former president Jacob Zuma's uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) Party, which has 37 seats in the KZN Legislature.

The MK Party, supported by the EFF's two MPLs, fielded Inkosi Phathisizwe Chiliza as the MK Party's premier candidate.

Former Msunduzi Municipality deputy mayor, Mervyn Dirks, contested Boyce for the speaker position, while MK Party MPL, Ishana Barciela, contested the deputy speaker position.

In all three contests, provincial unity government candidates received 41 votes, while the MK candidates received 39 votes each.

The voting processes were interrupted several times by MK Party and EFF MPLs, who wanted the votes to be counted in front of the MPLs rather than by Poyodlati and other legislature presiding officers.

Poyodlati, however, stated that the election regulations did not require the ballots to be counted in the presence of MPLs.

After his election, Ntuli said the people of KZN wanted parties to work together.

"That's why we will be walking the journey together so that the public can decide whether to trust us or not," he added.

On whether the coalition govern-



ment would be stable, Ntuli said the fact that the parties agreed to work together was a sign that they have a common purpose.

"During the build-up to the general elections we differed, but now we have agreed to work together to correct the wrongs which have been pointed out by the citizens of this province," he added.

NTULI, WHO WAS INAUGURATED LAST TUESDAY, HAS APPOINTED THE FOLLOWING MPLS TO RUN THE DEPARTMENTS IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT:

- The Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) - Musa Zondi (IFP);
- The Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) - Thulasizwe Buthelezi (IFP);
- The Department of Health - Nomagugu Simelane (ANC);
- The Department of Social Development - Mbali Shinga (NFP);
- The Department of Public Works - Martin Meyer (DA);
- KZN Treasury - Francois Rodgers (DA);
- The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - Them-

beni Mthethwa (IFP);

- The Department of Transport and Human Settlements - Siboniso Duma (ANC);
- The Department of Education - Sipho Hlomuka (ANC); and
- The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture - Mntomuhle Khawula (IFP).

Ntuli said the new provincial cabinet has an obligation to put political differences aside and focus on service delivery and the upliftment of the people of the province.

"To the appointed members of the executive, I appreciate that we come from different political homes and we campaigned with different manifestos," he said.

"However, now is the time to put the people of KwaZulu-Natal first.

All of us are expected to serve with honesty, dignity and diligently.

We must never betray the people of our province that voted for us.

"Our government will focus on the values that unite us. We will always seek consensus among different parties in our government."