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# DA leader Hill-Lewis says preserving Zulu heritage must go hand in hand with creating opportunities for youth

**CLIVE NDOU**

Preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Zulu Nation must go hand in hand with creating jobs, economic opportunities and a better future for younger generations, DA federal leader Geordin Hill-Lewis said during a courtesy visit to Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini at the eMashobeni Royal Palace in Pongola yesterday.

Hill-Lewis was accompanied by DA national chairperson Solly Msimanga, KwaZulu-Natal provincial leader Sithembiso Ngema and provincial chairperson Dean Macpherson.

The party said the visit was intended to affirm its respect for the institution of traditional leadership and its role in the lives of millions of South Africans.

The engagement comes as political parties intensify efforts to build support in KwaZulu-Natal ahead of the November municipal elections.

Hill-Lewis, who described the meeting as an honour, said the DA recognised the significance of the Zulu Nation and its contribution to the country's history and identity. "It was an honour to give my respects to the Zulu Nation, one of the great cultural communities of our country, of Africa and indeed the world," he said.

The history of the Zulu Nation, Hill-Lewis said, was defined by "pride, courage and deep history", with its culture, language and customs giving millions of people a strong sense of identity and belonging. "That heritage is something to be celebrated and protected," he said.

Hill-Lewis said cultural preservation should go hand in hand with creating economic opportunities for future generations.

"Our message to the Zulu Nation is that the greatest tribute we can pay to the generations who came before us is not only to preserve their legacy, but to build a future of prosperity, work and safety for all," he said.

Hill-Lewis assured the king that a DA-led national government would respect the legacy and heritage of the Zulu Nation while working to create conditions for economic growth, employment and improved public services.



DA federal leader Geordin Hill-Lewis and KwaZulu-Natal provincial leader Sithembiso Ngema meet Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini at the eMashobeni Royal Palace in Pongola yesterday. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED / DA**

"A future in which young people can find work, families can live in safety, children can receive a quality education, and communities can prosper," he said, adding that citizens should also be able to use the land they occupy as a productive asset to improve their lives.

Cultural identity, Hill-Lewis said, should complement effective governance. "Culture gives us our roots. Good government gives us the opportunity to flourish. Together, they can help build a country that works for all its people," he said.  
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