



Statement from Afrika Mayibuye Movement Welcoming the Supreme Court of Appeal Judgment on the Zulu Kingship Dispute

Date: 6 October 2025

Afrika Mayibuye Movement salutes and welcomes the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) judgment delivered on the 6th October 2025 in the case of The President of the Republic of South Africa and Others v Prince Mbonisi and Others.

This historic and resounding decision affirms **His Majesty Indlulamithi King Misuzulu KaZwelithini, uBhejane phumela ekhanda elinsundu, owadla umhlabathi wavumana, Ubhesh' elilodwa abanye bencinya beshintshashintsha kepha yena ebhinca nawoyisemkhulu. Inkombankombane eyakhonjwa uZulu ngomhlambi wezinkomo**, as the rightful and divinely ordained King of the Zulu Nation.

The SCA's ruling upholds the sacred principles of Zulu customary law and the processes enshrined in the Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act 3 of 2019. We salute the SCA for its unwavering commitment to preserving the integrity of African customary law, ensuring that the will of the Zulu people and their revered traditions triumph in the face of contention.

Following the solemn passing of His late Majesty King Zwelithini KaBhekuzulu in March 2021, Queen Mantfombi the appointed regent in **INdlondl'enophaphe'ekhanda's** will, fulfilled her sacred duty by selecting her first-born son, Prince Misuzulu, as the rightful successor in accordance with Zulu customary law. On the 14th May 202 the Zulu Royal Family, with unity and reverence, affirmed this nomination- heralding the dawn of a new era under Indlulamithi.

On 16 March 2022, the President of South Africa rightfully recognized His Majesty King Misuzulu cementing his position as the beacon of Zulu unity and pride. Challenges brought by Prince Mbonisi Bhekithemba KaBhekuzulu and Prince Simakade Ka-Zwelithini Zulu, alleging deviations from customary law and the Leadership Act were correctly and decisively dismissed by the SCA. The court affirmed the identification of King Misuzulu as *res judicata* and upheld the lawfulness of the President's recognition, finding no fault in the adherence to Zulu customary practices.

This judgment stands as a testament to the unassailable legitimacy of Indlulamithi, whose leadership shines as a guiding star for the Zulu Nation. The Zulu monarchy, a towering pillar of South Africa's cultural and historical identity, has long embodied the spirit of resilience and unity. From King Cetshwayo's triumphant victory at the Battle of Isandlwana in 1879 to King Zwelithini's steadfast leadership through the dark days of apartheid and into South Africa's democratic era- the monarchy has been a symbol of resistance, hope, and continuity. The SCA's judgment not only reaffirms the sanctity of customary law but also elevates the autonomy of traditional leadership structures ensuring that the voice of Indlulamithi resonates as a unifying force for all Africans.

Afrika Mayibuye Movement passionately advocates for the elevation of traditional leadership within South Africa's governance framework. Traditional leaders, led by the illustrious example of His Majesty King Misuzulu, Indlulamithi, are trusted custodians of our heritage, wielding unparalleled accessibility and cultural legitimacy. They surpass state institutions in resolving disputes and fostering social cohesion, serving as the heartbeat of our communities. We call for bold constitutional and legislative reforms to empower traditional leaders with:

1. **Legislative Authority:** A formalized role in provincial and national legislation, particularly on land, culture, and community development.
2. **Judicial Functions:** Strengthened traditional courts integrated with the formal justice system.
3. **Resource Allocation:** Authority over local resources and development projects in collaboration with government.
4. **Constitutional Recognition:** Elevating traditional leadership to a fourth sphere of government under Chapter 12 of the Constitution.

Mayibuye firmly believes that empowering traditional leaders will bridge the chasm between modern governance and African cultural values, fostering inclusive development and enduring social stability. The Zulu monarchy, under the visionary leadership of ***Indlulamithi, owadla umhlabathi wavumana***, is uniquely positioned to model this integration, as evidenced by the overwhelming support of the Zulu Nation for their King.

This judgment is a clarion call, not only resolving a critical dispute but also reaffirming the enduring relevance of traditional leadership in South Africa. We urge the government to honour the monarchy's historic contributions to the anti-colonial and anti-apartheid struggles and to empower traditional leaders to play a transformative role in governance.

Afrika Mayibuye Movement stands in unwavering solidarity with His Majesty King Misuzulu KaZwelithini- ***Indlulamithi, uZulu kaMalandela ngokulandela izinkomo zamadoda, uZulu omnyama ondlela zimhlophe***, and the Zulu Royal Family. We pledge our steadfast support for their leadership in advancing the aspirations of the Zulu Nation and all African people, as they carry forward the torch of unity, pride, and progress.

Issued by the Afrika Mayibuye Movement

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