

**ArcelorMittal briefing and sufficient energy to electrify houses being constructed in KZN on top of the agenda: Duma meets with the Minister of Electricity and Energy Dr Kgosientsho Ramokgopa as assigned by President Cyril Ramaphosa**

Media and Public Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma.

06 March 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: As directed by President Cyril Ramaphosa, we have met with the Minister of Electricity and Energy, Dr. Kgosientsho Ramokgopa.

We were joined by the mayors of UMgungundlovu District, Cllr. Mzi Zuma, and the Mayor of Umsunduzi Municipality, Cllr. Mzimkhulu Thebolla.

Apart from briefing us about planned regular visits to Newcastle, Richards Bay, and other areas in KZN, the Minister detailed interventions aimed at saving more than 3000 to 4000 jobs at ArcelorMittal.

We welcome the introduction of a comprehensive electricity tariff framework aimed at stabilizing and revitalizing South Africa's ferrochrome industry.

This framework articulates debt relief and electricity tariff measures, which will be used to power ArcelorMittal into the future of prosperity. It will also bring back 45 smelters into production by December.

The Minister reminded us that in South Africa there are 66 smelters, but only 11 are currently operational due to high electricity costs and market pressures.

Flowing from above, the Minister further informed us that producers were previously paying around R1.35 per kilowatt-hour. But, as directed by President Cyril Ramaphosa, he engaged the National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) resulting in the reduction of tariffs to approximately 87 cents per kilowatt-hour.

We thank the Minister for his bold and decisive interventions. We are witnessing an end of load shedding and sustained provision of electricity over more than 293 days.

In particular, we have built more than 6607 houses in KZN, and these have been electrified with the support from the Minister.

Critically, the Minister has confirmed that the construction of a gas-fired power plant that will include open-cycle gas turbines and combined-cycle gas turbines is proceeding at the Richards Bay Industrial Development Zone (IDZ).

The plant will have a maximum capacity of 3,000 megawatts. We are looking forward to the future characterized by the provision of reliable and affordable electricity to the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

Communities who are waiting for completion of their houses which are currently being constructed by the department of human settlements should not worry about electricity.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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