

## **Tongaat Hulett and ArcelorMittal SA: Duma welcomes interventions undertaken by Ministers Parks Tau and Dr "Sputla" Ramokgopa as assigned by President Cyril Ramaphosa**

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

03 March 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: During today's debate, we welcomed the Opening of the Legislature by His Majesty Misuzulu and the State of the Province Address delivered by the Premier Thami Ntuli.

The Premier demonstrated his ability to build on the strong foundation laid over the years of hard work by the previous administrations under the African National Congress.

We welcome the Premier's alignment of SoPA to the State of the Nation Address as delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The President prioritized investments in socio-economic infrastructure as an instrument to grow the economy and create jobs.

Clearly, the provincial economic growth of 1.8% in 2025, which was above the national average growth expectation, was made possible by political stability achieved under the Provincial Government of Unity and National Government of Unity.

In particular, the President has prioritized saving jobs in KwaZulu-Natal by deploying two ministers to engage with stakeholders in KZN.

These are Parks Tau, the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, as well as Dr. Kgosientsho "Sputla" Ramokgopa, the Minister of Electricity and Energy.

The decision to oppose the liquidation of Tongaat Hulett will save more than 15 000 jobs of small-scale sugarcane growers, mainly Black farmers, mostly in deep rural areas. Saving jobs is what King Misuzulu is advocating.

Importantly, as the Department of Transport, we provide road infrastructure to the sugarcane industry, which has over 350,000 jobs.

We therefore welcome the alternative investor strategy for sustainable capitalization as articulated by Tau during an engagement with stakeholders.

In addition, we welcome efforts undertaken by the Minister of Electricity and Energy aimed at ensuring improved energy availability. His efforts, together with Minister Tau, will save more than 3 400 jobs at Newcastle's ArcelorMittal—a company that relies heavily on energy.

As stated in today's debate, the people of this province are not interested in political bickering and political gimmicks. They want leaders who are solution providers, not problem chasers and recorders of soundbites.

In this regard, we offer to work with the two ministers, the Premier and MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Musa Zondi, and other leaders to save jobs and grow the economy.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

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