

**Update on Tongaat Hulett and ArcelorMittal South Africa: Duma says the latest developments as presented by Minister Parks Tau to the Zulu Royal Chancellor Inkosi Zondi will preserve jobs and put traditional leaders central in driving socio-economic development**

Media and public statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma, in his capacity as the Leader of Government Business

09 May 2026

Inkosi Mhlabunzima Maphumulo House: We remain inspired by the bold leadership and sustained support we are getting from the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Parks Tau. The Minister spent the last two days in King Cetshwayo District.

Importantly, the Zulu Royal Chancellor, Inkosi Malusi Zondi, as assigned by ISILO Misuzulu, has displayed deep commitment towards cultivating strategic relations with all spheres of government. Inkosi was accompanied by Inkosi Mthiyane and an economic council.

This forms part of his commitment towards driving socio-economic development for the benefit of the people of KwaZulu-Natal as mandated by His Majesty.

As requested by the Minister, in my capacity as the Leader of Government, I facilitated a successful meeting with the following updates:

**Rescuing of Tongaat Hulett**

As the custodian of the Sugar Act, Minister Tau remains opposed to the liquidation of Tongaat Hulett and is determined to save more than 40 000 jobs. The matter returns to KwaZulu-Natal High Court on the 18th June.

As guided by the Sugar Industry Master Plan, the Minister is championing rescue strategy and a process focusing on the establishment of the new structure. This structure will ensure a greater involvement and ownership of a stake in Tongaat Hulett by small-scale farmers and workers.

The Zulu Royal Chancellor will be continuously engaged and will receive updates for onward transmission to the King. The focus is on ensuring full participation of indigenous people on traditional land, as owners, in the entire value chain of sugarcane.

**Rescuing of ArcelorMittal**

As pronounced by the Minister, rescue plans include a total take-over of ArcelorMittal by the Industrial Development Corporation. The more than R8.5 billion takeover bid will ensure that the steel company remains in Newcastle.

The greater focus is on saving 3500 jobs, mainly by local people and 100,000 indirect jobs dependent on the steel value chain. The Zulu Royal Chancellor Inkosi Zondi, presented a potential company with a bid to take over of ArcelorMittal.

In conclusion, we value ongoing engagements with Amakhosi in UMthonjaneni, as facilitated by the Zulu Royal Chancellor. This will ensure that the institution of traditional leadership is not left behind but at the forefront of all efforts aimed at facilitating foreign direct investment in deep rural areas.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements in his capacity as the Leader of Government Business

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