



## **KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**ATTENTION: EDITORS/REPORTERS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**14 FEBRUARY 2026**

### **Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs notes Tongaat Hulett provisional liquidation application**

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) has noted with regret the announcement by Tongaat Hulett's Business Rescue Practitioners regarding the application to the High Court for provisional liquidation of the company's operations.

KwaZulu-Natal is the heart of South Africa's sugar industry and remains one of the country's leading agricultural provinces. The sugar sector contributes approximately R24 billion to South Africa's economy, with nearly R19 billion generated within KwaZulu-Natal alone. Tongaat Hulett has historically been a central pillar of this ecosystem, supporting growers, mill workers, transporters, small-scale farmers and rural economies across multiple districts.

The potential implications of this development are therefore profound. Thousands of direct and indirect jobs, small-scale and commercial sugarcane growers, service providers and entire communities could be affected should instability in this value chain persist.

While the matter is now before the Court, and recognising that there are differing positions between the parties involved, EDTEA emphasises that government does not



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take sides in ongoing legal processes. Our primary concern is the economic stability of KwaZulu-Natal, the protection of livelihoods and the long-term sustainability of the sugar industry.

MEC for EDTEA, Rev. Musa Zondi, said the province cannot afford further erosion of one of its core economic sectors.

“KwaZulu-Natal is largely an agricultural province with diversified industrial base, and the sugar industry is deeply embedded in our rural economy. Tongaat Hulett has long been a backbone of this sector. Any disruption of this scale carries serious consequences for workers, small scale growers and households across our districts.

The MEC further indicated that he will apprise the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Honourable Thamsanqa Ntuli, as leader of the affected province, to ensure a coordinated provincial response. In addition, engagement will be undertaken with Minister Parks Tau in his capacity as Minister responsible for Trade, Industry and Competition, to explore all available avenues to safeguard jobs, stabilise the industry and support affected communities.

EDTEA calls on all parties to engage constructively and in good faith, and expresses hope that solutions can still be found that prioritise economic continuity, investor confidence and the welfare of workers and growers.

The Department will continue to monitor developments closely and will provide updates as the Court process unfolds.

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