

Arcelor SA CEO to step down

ArcelorMittal South Africa says its chief executive Nonkululeko Nyembezi-Heita is stepping down after almost six years at the helm, which included a bruising dispute with Kumba Iron Ore over the pricing of supplies.

The company, a unit of the world's top steelmaker, said Nyembezi-Heita will also step down as an executive director, effective from February 18. No reason was given for her resignation.

It said its board "will embark on a search for Ms Nyembezi-Heita's successor and an announcement on the transitional period will be made in due course".

Nyembezi-Heita was appointed ArcelorMittal SA's head in March 2008 and led the firm during the lengthy supply battle with Kumba. The two sides reached a new supply agreement deal last month, replacing one suspended during the dispute and raising costs for the steelmaker.

ArcelorMittal SA will pay costs plus 20% for iron ore sourced from Kumba, up from the previous deal under which it paid a discounted price of costs plus 3%. But resolving the dispute removed a huge element of uncertainty.

The company's shares were down 0.74% at R41.35 as of 11.30am, underperforming the broader All-share index which was 0.33% lower. – *Reuters*.