

Department and ICT appeal Sishen ruling

Imperial Crown Trading (ICT) and the Department of Mineral Resources had lodged applications for leave to appeal to the Constitutional Court against a finding by the Supreme Court of Appeal, ArcelorMittal South Africa said yesterday. Last month, the Supreme Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal made by the Department of Mineral Resources and ICT against a North Gauteng High Court judgment, delivered in December last year, which held that the Sishen Iron Ore Company (SIOC) was granted exclusive rights to mine iron ore at the Sishen mine in 2008 and set aside the granting of prospecting rights to ICT. The SIOC is a subsidiary of Kumba Iron Ore. ICT was a politically connected and controversial empowerment partner of ArcelorMittal SA. The maker of steel had previously held 25 percent of the exclusive mining rights to the Sishen mine, before losing the rights because of failure to convert them to new order rights. – Wiseman Khuzwayo