

Manganese mine saved as licence is produced

A NEW manganese mine — the first in SA to be controlled by a black woman — was saved from near-disaster by the courts yesterday.

Facing the withdrawal of support from steel giant ArcelorMittal, Daphne Mashile-Nkosi, chairwoman of Kalagadi Manganese, produced a mining licence in the middle of a court battle.

ArcelorMittal is a 50% shareholder in Kalagadi Manganese, which is bringing an R8bn manganese mine and sintering plant

into production this year. It declined to pay its share when it discovered a mining licence to extract the manganese had not been transferred to Kalagadi from Ms Mashile-Nkosi's company, Kalahari Resources.

But she extracted the right from the Department of Mineral Resources and produced it in the South Gauteng High Court, which ordered ArcelorMittal to pay Kalagadi R241,3m.