



MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: ALL MEDIA/EDITORS

DATE: 16 APRIL 2026

SAFDA WELCOMES DURBAN HIGH COURT ADJOURNMENT OF THE TONGAAT HULETT LIQUIDATION HEARING

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) welcomes the adjournment of the hearing for the application to liquidate Tongaat Hulett Limited (THL), which was filed by the Business Rescue Practitioners on the 12th of February 2026. The case was on the roll of Durban High Court for today.

The court sitting, held earlier today, provided an opportunity for all parties to present their arguments regarding whether provisional liquidation should be granted. In her ruling, the Judge Rithy Singh highlighted the broader socio-economic implications of such a decision, stating that it would not be in the best interest of the people of KwaZulu-Natal for Tongaat Hulett to be placed under liquidation. The court further recognized the critical role played by Tongaat Hulett, describing the company as a lifeline to the province's economy.

The adjournment allows for a long-term solution to be explored between now and the date of the next hearing for the main case and the counter application, which is the 17th and the 18th of June 2026.

We wish to commend the IDC for providing the much-needed further Post Commencement Funding (PCF) of R200 million that will allow THL to finish off their off-crop maintenance of the mills and be ready to open for crushing for the current season that commenced on the 1st of April 2026.

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Farmers have been waiting with bated breath as to whether THL mills will even open this season given the uncertainty about the liquidation hearing, the absence of the PFC, while dealing with other challenges like the sugar imports that continue to hit our shores.

For thousands of small-scale and emerging sugarcane farmers, particularly those supported by SAFDA, the adjournment offers a measure of temporary relief and renewed hope. Tongaat Hulett remains a key player in the sugar value chain, providing a vital market for sugarcane growers, as well as supporting livelihoods across rural communities. In the interim, however, uncertainty remains. Farmers continue to face challenges related to cash flow, payment timelines, and operational planning for the upcoming harvesting and planting cycles.

The delay in finalizing the application means that growers must continue operating under constrained conditions while awaiting a more permanent resolution. SAFDA urges all stakeholders to prioritize stability within the value chain to ensure that farmers are not further disadvantaged during this period.

SAFDA remains committed to advocating for the interests of small-scale farmers and those of the broader industry. We will continue to engage all relevant stakeholders in pursuit of a permanent solution that must include the farmers

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