



**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: ALL MEDIA/EDITORS**

**DATE: 12 FEBRUARY 2026**

**SAFDA Calls for Calm Following Tongaat Hulett Provisional Liquidation Application**

The South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA) notes with serious concern the communication issued by Tongaat Hulett regarding the potential liquidation of the company. This follows the failure to conclude the sale of business transaction with Vision Sugar, as well as the inability of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and Vision Sugar to agree on the funding and refinancing arrangements required to finalize the transaction within the agreed timeline. The unfortunate lapse in concluding the transaction has compelled the Business Rescue Practitioners (BRPs) to file for provisional liquidation.

At this critical stage, SAFDA calls for calm among our growers and the public at large. We understand the anxiety and uncertainty that this development may cause, particularly for growers who rely on Tongaat Hulett mills for the processing of their cane. However, we wish to assure all stakeholders that the sugar industry and grower associations are actively engaging and doing everything within their power to ensure that this situation does not spiral out of control. SAFDA Executive Chairman, Dr Siyabonga Madlala, has appealed for restraint and unity during this period of uncertainty. He has assured growers that urgent discussions are currently underway with the relevant Ministers and key stakeholders to explore all possible interventions to prevent this mill from becoming another statistic in the growing number of mill closures experienced in recent years.

Dr Madlala has also emphasized that the potential closure of Tongaat Hulett would have devastating consequences not only for growers, farm workers and rural communities, but also for the broader economy. The ripple effects would be felt across the entire sugar value chain and the many livelihoods that depend on it.

SAFDA remains committed to protecting the interests of small-scale and black sugarcane growers and will continue to engage constructively with government.

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industry partners and financial institutions to seek sustainable solutions. We urge our growers to remain calm, united and focused as engagements continue. SAFDA will provide updates as soon as further clarity emerges.

**ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN: DR SIYABONGA MADLALA, EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON OF SAFDA.**

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