Mittal should belong to government: SACP
Lazarus Dithagiso

VANDERBIJLPARK. - Gauteng secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP) Jacob Mamabolo says ArcelorMittal actually belongs to the government and that the Communist Party wants to do away with labour brokers. Mamabolo was speaking when handing a memorandum to John Motaung, ArcelorMittal representative, on Monday. A 5-kilometre march that started at the Vanderbijlpark Licensing Department and ended at the main office of the company was led by the SACP in the presence of the ANC, Popcru, Cosatu and related alliance structures.

Mamabolo said labour brokers exploit workers by paying them a salary of R14 per hour. SACP demands employees fired by labour brokers to be reinstated through instruction of ArcelorMittal management. The factory loses about R180 million per year, he said adding that the government will have to take back what belongs to it.

“This will help improve the lives of the community and boost the economy of the country,” said Mamabolo. The SACP wants industrial unity: “We want the South African Human Rights Commission to investigate the racism taking place within Mittal. Disciplinary processes are used to victimise black people in top positions so they can be replaced by whites.

“The SACP and its alliances will fight and campaign until we get back what belongs to the community,” Mamabolo explained. Cosatu has threatened that should ArcelorMittal ignore the SACP’s plea for the stipulated period of 14 days they will take action. Motaung received and signed the memorandum with the promise that he would submit it to the relevant department.

John Motaung ArcelorMittal representative, signs a memorandum from SACP Gauteng Secretary Jacob Mamabolo (right) while from behind, second left, Vaal SACP leader Sello Maetshe looks on. Photo: Lazarus Dithagiso.