Re-nationalise the steel giant, SACP says

Tumelo Mofokeng

THE SA Communist Party marched to the head offices of steel producing giant ArcelorMittal in the Vaal to protest against alleged racism in the company and the labour broker system.

Formerly known as Iscor, ArcelorMittal is one of the world’s top steel companies.

Led by SACP leaders in the Vaal – Sello Maetso, Thembinoski Pulu and Victor Chioloane from the Gauteng leadership – they handed over a memorandum demanding:

- A ban on labour brokers;
- The elimination of racism;
- The reinstatement of workers who were fired by labour brokers.

“We call on the government to re-nationalise ArcelorMittal to serve as strategic national asset for the country,” read the memorandum.

Jacob Mamabolo, the Gauteng SACP secretary, said the party would return to ArcelorMittal to set up a branch for the workers.

The SACP also intends to ask the South African Human Rights Commission to launch a thorough investigation into allegations of racism, violation of workers’ rights, victimisation of workers and unlawful deductions from workers’ salaries.

ArcelorMittal’s John Motaung accepted the memorandum. The company was given 14 days to respond.