



## **water & sanitation**

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### **MEDIA Statement**

#### **Richards Bay Desalination Plant**

**01 February 2017**

The residents of Richards Bay will finally breathe a sigh of relieve after a desalination plant has been commissioned to ease water woes in the area from today, 01 February 2017.

The desalination plant at Alkantstrand, Richards Bay is in production and is supplying enough water to areas like Meerensee, Mzingazi and Mbonambi and will soon stabilize water supply for businesses and residents of the area.

Water restrictions have been imposed on Richards Bay residents and some other parts of KwaZulu-Natal as a result of the ongoing drought. This prompted government to consider the development of a major desalination plant for the North Coast.

The option of desalination is a short term intervention plan that the Department of Water and Sanitation is doing while the upgrading of the Thukela-Goedetrouw transfer scheme is in progress, which will enhance water supply in Richards Bay once completed.

The plant will produce 10ml of clean water per day, with a potential of being upgraded to any size. This is the largest and most modern desalination plant in the country. A sustainable design was used to reduce its carbon footprint. The plant has one of the smallest carbon footprints which include using energy from renewable sources and harvesting rainwater on-site for use within the plant.

**End**

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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