



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## MEDIA STATEMENT

### Minister Gugile Nkwinti launches Nestlé South Africa Zero Water Technologies Plant

5 June 2018

**Mossel Bay** –The Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS), Honourable Gugile Nkwinti today launched the Nestlé South Africa's first Zero Water Technologies site.

Over the past six years, the company has installed new water recovery, treatment and recycling technology at its Mossel Bay dairy factory, which is located in one of the Western Cape's most water stressed regions. This newly installed infrastructure will enable the factory to re-use and recycle water from its dairy operations.

The Nestlé Mossel Bay factory produces milk products such as NESPRAY, NIDO, KLIM, CONDENSED and CULINARY MILKS, respectively.

Inaugurating the plant, Minister Nkwinti congratulated the company for its effort to reduce water consumption. "It is imperative to note that the plant is in line with its National Water and Sanitation Master Plan which encourages development of alternative water sources for water security. These include recycle, re-use, and desalination and ground water optimisation. While we are glad that Nestlé as one of the major water users in the Western Cape has initiated such technological efforts. This does not take away our concern for the municipality to lose out on critical revenue once the company goes off-grid" said Nkwinti.

Between 2008 and 2010, the Mossel Bay Municipality and surrounding areas experienced one of its worst droughts in recorded history. The region was subsequently declared a disaster area and municipal water-use restrictions had to be put in place. In supporting the town's efforts to manage this crisis and ensure efficient water usage, Nestlé introduced a water saving initiative at our Mossel Bay factory.

"This being the first plant of its kind to be launched in the Southern Hemisphere, I would like to encourage other private sector partners to follow suit and showcase their efforts. This can be done through the critical Strategic Water Partners Network where possible" adds Nkwinti. Minister Nkwinti added that DWS had developed a five-pillar turn-around strategy to address issues of service delivery. However, aspects of the strategy can only be implemented in the next Medium Term Strategic Framework period of 2019 – 2024. The pillars are:

- A National Water Resources and Services Authority: RSA
- A National Water Resources and Services Regulator: RSA
- A Water Resources and Services Value Chain
- A Water Resources and Services Master Plan
- Institutional Rationalisation and Organisational Alignment

Through this initiative, Nestlé will be able to reduce the factory's water consumption by more than 50% during the first year of implementation, by simply re-using the water recovered from the milk evaporation process. Nestlé's vision for this initiative is to become a zero water intake facility by means of reusing milk water.



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The factory processes fresh cow's milk, normally containing around 88% water, through an evaporation process. The evaporated water is captured and treated and used to various applications within the facility eliminating the need for municipal water intake for these processes.

Nestlé South Africa's chairman and managing director, Rémy Ejel says Nestlé believes that every person has the right to water and sanitation, and therefore remains committed to supporting the ambition of the United Nations to universal access to safe water and sanitation.

"The Zero Water Project is a perfect example of our commitment to enhancing quality of life and contributing to a healthier future of individuals, communities and the planet. This project will have a positive impact on the treatment, recycling, conservation and water use efficiencies in our Mossel Bay factory. It will also link our business directly with local dairy farmers, suppliers, local government and the broader Mossel Bay community," adds Ejel.

**END**

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