



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Progress on the Middledrift Water Treatment Works

19 April 2018

The Department of Water and Sanitation has made tremendous strides in ensuring access to basic water services to all in South Africa. The on-going construction of the Middledrift Water Treatment Works in KwaZulu-Natal is one of the foremost water projects for the department.

The Middledrift Water Treatment Works is within King Cetshwayo District Municipality and covers the south eastern section of Nkandla area and the western section of the Eshowe. The 20 MI water treatment works is constructed into two phases, with the first phase being completed and supplying 10 MI of water to communities within uMlalazi local municipality and Nkandla local municipalities.

The second phase is currently in construction and will supply the balance of 10MI. Once completed, water will be obtained from the Tugela-uMhlathuze Transfer scheme. When the entire Middledrift Water Treatment Works is completed, it will provide water to 162 776 beneficiaries. The construction of the Middledrift Water Treatment Works also created jobs within local communities.

The Middledrift Water Treatment Works is identified as one of the biggest water schemes in King Cetshwayo District Municipality. Many localised water sources have been used in the past and include untreated sources such as springs, rivers and boreholes as well as some smaller treatment works on smaller streams and rivers. These sources have proven to be unreliable. The Thukela River was identified as a bulk source sustainable to provide sufficient water in the long term, as it is more reliant and not susceptible to drought.

End

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