



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Richards Bay Desalination plant improving water security

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The Richards Bay Desalination plant is producing and supplying tons of water to Richards Bay areas to stabilize water supply as a result of the on-going drought that is facing KwaZulu-Natal.

Launched in May 2017, the desalination plant forms part of the province's short term intervention by the Department of Water and Sanitation which is aimed at increasing domestic water supply to help local communities and business in and around Richards Bay.

The plant produces 10ML/day of clean water per day and directly benefits communities of Mandlazini, Meerensee, Nseleni, Khoza, Mzingazi and the Mbonambi Rural Water Supply Scheme.

In September 2017, the desalination plant was hit by the theft of electric cables which caused water interruptions. The process to replace electric cables was enormous and it led to indirect loss of cables and equipment. The department condemns the theft and vandalism of water infrastructure.

Since the operation of the desalination plant, water reservoirs in the area have significantly improved adding water security and reliability. This was after water restrictions that have been imposed to Richards Bay residents as well as in other parts of KwaZulu-Natal as a result of the on-going drought.

In December 2014 the KwaZulu-Natal's provincial cabinet declared drought in the province in December 2014, and by August 2016, Richards Bay's main water supply had dropped to a dangerously low level of 16%.

End

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