



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### Richards Bay Desalination Plant

07 December 2016

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in KwaZulu-Natal has commenced with the commissioning of mobile desalination plants that will be used to produce clean and drinkable water to stabilize water supply in Richards Bay.

"The desalination of seawater was identified as the preferred alternative as it aims to supply adequate drinking water in Richards Bay. It will also be able to supplement the municipal water supply in times of critical shortage," said Provincial Head of DWS KZN, Ashley Starkey, during a site visit to the Richards Bay desalination plant on 07 December 2016.

Richards Bay is in the grip of a severe drought and could possibly run dry; this is why the DWS KZN showcased an interim measure of the Richards Bay desalination plant to members of COGTA provincial portfolio committee. The aim of the site visit was to enlighten members of the portfolio committee on the measures that Department is doing for Richards Bay to help ease the shortage of drinkable water caused by the current drought.

Presenting to the portfolio committee, Mr. Paradzai Muneka from the National Water Resource Infrastructure explained that this project is important for security and the availability of the water for the region as KZN is currently facing drought caused by the climate change. "This is a short term intervention plan that the Department is doing while we are busy upgrading the Thukela-Goedertrouw transfer scheme that will assist to alleviate water situation in Richards Bay", added Muneka.

This 350 million emergency project started in July 2016 and will be completed in February 2017. The plant currently produces 10ML/day treated water per day with a potential of being upgraded to any size.

The Department is also busy with the Thukela-Goedertrouw transfer scheme where water is being pumped from the Thukela River to the Goedertrouw Dam. Once completed, the scheme is expected to stabilize the water supply within Richards Bay.

**Mbali Mahaye**