



**the sandf**

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Department:  
Defence  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**DATE:** 16 November 2015

**EMBARGO:** None

### **SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL DEFENCE ASSIST WITH DELIVERY OF WATER TO DROUGHT STRICKEN TOWN**

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has been tasked to assist with the shortage of water in the Southern Free State town of Smithfield. A request from the local municipality in Smithfield via the disaster management structures to the SANDF resulted in an operation being introduced to supply water to the municipal water works since Saturday 14 November 2015.

The SANDF projected a small contingent to the drought stricken town on Friday 13 November 2015 and commenced with operations on Saturday morning on 14 November 2015. Seven water bowsers with a joint estimated capacity of 45 000 litres were dispatched to Smithfield under operational command of the Joint Tactical Headquarters Free State based in Bloemfontein.

Since Saturday morning a total of 400 000 litres of water have been supplied to the local municipality water works. This water was transported from two different water sources and off-loaded directly in the purification system of the town.

The SANDF will continue with this operation until the 30 November 2015 and it is expected that a total amount of 300 000 litres of water will be delivered on a daily basis to the community. It is also noteworthy that no water will be supplied directly to the citizens of Smithfield but to the water purifications works as agreed by SANDF and the local municipality.

**ENDS**

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