

# Mondi boost for new Bay air quality monitoring station

Dave Savides

THE Richards Bay Clean Air Association (RBCAA) had another string added to its bow last week thanks to a donation of specialised air quality monitoring equipment.


The generous handover by Mondi to the RBCAA took place at Richardia Primary School, where an ambient air quality monitoring station was recently established.

“The station currently monitors sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>), and with the donation from Mondi, the RBCAA will now expand the monitoring at Richardia to include the measuring of TRS (total reduced sulphides),” said Sandy Camminga, RBCAA founder member and director.

“TRS, often associated with what is described as a rotten egg, cabbage, guava or cat urine odour, refers to a gaseous mixture of compounds.

“The most often reported health concerns related to TRS substances are nausea and



At the installation of the sophisticated new TRS monitoring equipment are (from left): Mr RV Zulu (principal of Richardia Primary School), Candice Webb (head of environment at Mondi South Africa), Francois Nel (Air Impact Measurement Services), Franz Schmidt (RBCAA director), Sandy Camminga (RBCAA director and founder member) and Nosispho Ntombela (environmental technologist at Mondi)  Dave Savides

headaches.”

Speaking on behalf of Mondi, Candice Webb, head of environment at Mondi South Africa said: “The RBCAA boasts one of the most successful, accurate, and best-maintained ambient air

quality monitoring systems in Southern Africa.

“Mondi is extremely proud to be a founder member of the association and of all it has achieved over the past 25 years.

“In order to ensure the continued success of the

RBCAA and Mondi’s commitment to air quality improvement, Mondi has donated the Total Reduced Sulphur converter to support both the RBCAA and Mondi in monitoring of real time TRS in the community”.

# City’s load-shedding strategy unpacked

Gugu Myeni

BUSINESSES in the City of uMhlathuze, located outside residential areas, are exempt from Stage 1 load-shedding.

The municipality says it has designed the current schedule to reduce switching between stages owing to the manual nature of the process.

“Switching off is undertaken at the city’s larger substations. Stage 1 affects residential areas, but load-shedding will affect business customers located within these residential blocks.

“Stages 2 to 4 will be for all residential and businesses, but only once a day, while Stage 5 will affect residential blocks twice a day, and once a day for businesses,” said the uMhlathuze electrical and energy department’s, Adri Smit.

He said Stage 6 power cuts will affect all customers twice a day.

“If the electricity does not go off during one of these stages, then it might be that the electricians are attending to an area fault where other customers are already off, and they are trying to restore the electricity in the affected area.

“If the electricity goes off a few minutes later than scheduled, it may be because the electrician had difficulty restoring the power for the previous block, or was attending to another fault which caused a delay,” said Smit.

He said when electricity is restored a few minutes later than scheduled, it may be because the electrician had difficulty switching the supply back or there were other delays.



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