

# PMB lab's big expansion

***New facility will double number of jobs in water quality business***

**KAVITH HARRILALL**

**A** PIETERMARITZBURG environmental solutions company, Talbot & Talbot, is set to invest R4,5 million in a new, advanced laboratory facility on their premises near Camps Drift, on the back of sustained growth fuelled by healthy industrial growth and public sector business.

The business, an environmental lab conducting chemical analyses of water and waste for industrial concerns and government entities among other clients, is one of only a handful of such companies in South Africa to embark on such an expansion drive.

The company consists of four divisions and the latest investment relates to their "commercial lab" division.

Dr Francois Talbot, director of Talbot & Talbot, told *The Witness* that the investment realises their vision of growing the business and the lab three-fold.

Dr Bernard Talbot, also a director of the company (together with Frank Hedley), added that the lab will employ double the number of highly skilled employees.

Analysis of water samples for environmental and health risks (for many municipalities including 20 in KZN) and work for industrial concerns are two key imperatives. The 19-year-old city business has expanded its focus area over the years and it now services markets throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

The directors added that their attention to quality, reliance on the precision and accuracy of their



Photo: KAVITH HARRILALL

Belinda Talbot (left), Nomzamo Nyawo and Vanessa Talbot busy at work at Talbot & Talbot's laboratory on Pentrich Road. The company is expected to move into a new lab by the end of this year.

results, and their rapid turnaround time have all contributed to the growth currently being experienced.

"There is a growing awareness of

the quality of drinking water ... as well as human health issues. There is also an increasing awareness of environmental issues," noted Dr

Francois Talbot, adding: "There is a strong realisation that water and energy are finite resources".

Gonal Construction and Andrew

Crosby and Associates are developing the new 450 m<sup>2</sup> facility, expected to be finished by December, 2007.

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