



## INTERNET ARTICLE

### **Minister Gugile Nkwinti is happy with the progress of the raising of Clanwilliam Dam**

10 May 2019

On Friday 03 May 2019, the Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Hon. Gugile Nkwinti visited the Clanwilliam Dam construction site to assess the progress made thus far on the project. Minister Nkwinti subsequently attended a public meeting held at the Katy Johnson Community Hall in Clanwilliam where he informed the community on the project progress.

On 8 October 2018 Minister Nkwinti gave the Infrastructure Build, Operations and Maintenance (IBOM) Branch the go-ahead to commence with the construction of the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall. The wall will be raised by 13 m resulting to an increase in the capacity of the dam from 122 million m<sup>3</sup> to 344 million m<sup>3</sup>. The increased capacity will provide additional water for irrigation and other water uses as well as resource poor farmers in the Cederberg and Matzikama Municipalities.

DWS is further working with the Western Cape's Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and Developmental Planning, the national Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Rural Development and Land Reform to ensure that previously disadvantaged communities will benefit from the project and increased water capacity.

During his engagement with engineers on site, Minister Nkwinti expressed his gratitude to the officials. "I am so pleased see that there is life on the site" Minister said.

Minister Nkwinti discussed the progress indicating that "We are busy with the access roads to the dam; the team is already busy with the excavations on both sides of the dam. These access roads will be used by the construction vehicles to avoid using the N7 where possible. As and when the workload picks up, there is going to be an influx of construction vehicles. We do not want to block the N7. The excavations indicate where the dam wall will be raised from", said Nkwinti.

Addressing the Clanwilliam community at the Katy Johnson Community Hall, the Contract Manager for Construction South and the Raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall's Harry Swart, said: "We are proud to report that the progress on site is about 5%. The biggest progress was made in the boardrooms. Minister Nkwinti with sheer perseverance and drive rejuvenated the project and resolved the difficulties experienced with the DWS procurement process.

"There are currently 12 critical bids out for the project of which four (4) have already closed, six (6) already had site meetings and the last two's site meetings will be held before the end of this month" said Swart.

An emotional Mr Swart ended his speech by thanking the Minister. "Mr Minister, this is all thanks to you. You made it possible", he concluded.

**Phetho Ntaba**

