



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MEDIA STATEMENT

#### **The joint raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall gets underway**

08 October 2018

On the morning of 8 October 2018, the Minister of Water and Sanitation (Mr Gugile Nkwinti) and the Premier of the Western Cape (Ms Helen Zille) turned the sod at a ceremony in the Clanwilliam Dam Construction site. The ceremony gives the DWS Construction Unit a go-ahead to proceed with the raising of the dam wall.

This activity is in keeping with Minister Nkwinti's announcement during his inaugural DWS Budget Vote speech that the project would commence within five months of that announcement. As is common knowledge, the dam was built in 1935. In 1969, the dam was raised by 6 metres to its current level, with the intention to provide for an increasing irrigation demand. In this instance, the wall will be raised by 13 metres to treble its capacity to ensure water security.

In her address, the Western Cape Premier Zille said, "If we were here in periods earlier than May this year, I would have thought that there was a funeral due to the low level of the dam. We met with Minister Nkwinti and discussed what can be done with agriculture if this critical project can go ahead. We are mighty grateful for the Minister having taken the decision to go ahead with the project.

"We hope that this project will indicate the beginning of the seven fat years as per the Bible saying, and seven years goes very quickly. We must not waste the time", Premier Zille said.

"We are here to launch the project. We must engage with the Construction SETA to ensure training and registration of those people who will have received jobs, those who are historically disadvantaged. When we say we need even the 30% set aside, in the main we find that those that are identified are not trained.

"This water is for domestic use, business and agriculture (irrigation); in this regard, we will work boldly towards the finalization of this project within the time that we have envisaged," Minister Nkwinti said.

The members of the Construction Unit have been emboldened by Minister Nkwinti's challenge to them to show what capacity is available in the unit and what they can achieve, more especially with regard to timeous completion of the work that is directed to them.



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The event was in two phases: Phase one was the official turning of the sod ceremony at the construction site, at 11H00; and Phase Two marked the Minister and Premier addressing the community at Sederberg Primary School, from 12h00.

ENDS

**Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation**

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