



MEDIA STATEMENT

DWS engages West Coast on the raising of Clanwilliam Dam project

01 July 2019

The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) would like to reiterate its commitment to transparency and empowering the residents of the West Coast District Municipality during the raising of Clanwilliam Dam Wall.

This commitment was emphasised on 27 and 28 June 2019 when the Department engaged stakeholders about the progress made in the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam Wall project

The then Minister of Water and Sanitation Gugile Nkwinti together with former Premier of the Western Cape Ms Helen Zille officially launched the Clanwilliam Dam project on 08 October 2018. This is one of the biggest Government infrastructure projects in recent years in the Western Cape.

The project entails raising of the dam wall by 13 m and the additional yield of water will aid agriculture in particular the emerging farming community of the West Coast. Given the challenge the unemployment challenges facing the youth the project is also poised to create much needed jobs and skills for the youth.

During the stakeholder engagement session the community was informed that:

- Over 50 West Coast young people have been employed since the launch of the project and the project is poised to create more jobs; and
- The project management office located in Clanwilliam is still accepting curriculum vitae of job seekers.

The Department also presented training to local Small-Medium Enterprises on how to participate meaningfully in procurement activities of the project.

Mr Sputnik Ratau, Spokesperson for the Department of Water and Sanitation says the department will from time to time engage the communities of West Coast District Municipality about the project.

“In a free society, transparency is government's obligation to share information and be accountable to citizens and ensure that they are empowered with information”, said Ratau.

Meanwhile DWS welcomes the significant rainfalls that fell throughout the Western Cape Province. Following the recent rains the Western Cape Water Supply System which consists of 6 largest dams has increase by over 2% and is currently standing at 52,59 % as compared to 49,82% last week.

Ratau says while DWS is pleased with the manner in which the dams are replenishing water users are urged to keep the momentum in saving water.

“Water is life, Sanitation is Dignity”





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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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