



INTERNET ARTICLE

The catalyst for a sustainable stakeholder and community engagement is the development of a good plan – Minister Mokonyane

16 July 2015

The Minister of Water and Sanitation (DWS) Nomvula Mokonyane says that one of the main ingredients of a sustainable stakeholder and community engagement is the development of a good plan.

Addressing community members at the unveiling of the Clanwilliam Dam Wall in the Western Cape Province last Saturday 11 July 2015, Minister Mokonyane expressed satisfaction, adding that “I am delighted to inform this gathering today that the socio-economic development plan for the raising of Clanwilliam Dam wall has been developed.”

She stated that “The plan serves, among other things, as the basis for stakeholder engagement and is at the heart of the Project Management Office (PMO) that was launched today”.

The Minister noted that the plan is driven by three critical areas, namely procurement, job creation and housing. “In the drive towards the achievement of the three areas alluded to a Labour Desk comprising of the Department, Cederberg and Matzikama Local Municipalities is being established to facilitate recruitment and selection. All involved institutions are now finalizing the processes to nominate representatives who will constitute the Labour Desk,” added the Minister.

The establishment of the Labour Desk is intended to ensure, amongst other things, that the majority of local people are not just employed as flag bearers but that decent and empowering job opportunities are provided to them.



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The housing options identified for the project are expropriated properties and private residential houses of Clanwilliam citizens. The expropriated properties will accommodate 79 employees whilst 250 workers will require accommodation. Private residential homes will be used to house approximately another 171 workers.

As part of the beneficiation for local people, according to Minister Mokonyane, the department engaged suppliers registered in the database of both Cederberg and Matzikama Local Municipalities regarding the progress made in the project of raising the Clanwilliam Dam wall including how they could involve themselves in the procurement processes.

The stakeholders that have already been engaged range from emerging farmers, youth and women formations, taxi associations, local businesses as well as entrepreneurs. In the ensuing engagements, the stakeholders were further informed that the procurement opportunities arising from the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam wall project would benefit both Cederberg and Matzikama municipalities.

It has been identified that the establishment of the Project Management Office will also help create conducive conditions towards the process of establishing water and sanitation forums within the area. Stakeholder engagement processes will be pursued further to solicit buy-in and ensure that the established forums are operationally effective.

“While it is important to enlighten our people about the beneficiation processes, it is equally so to acknowledge that there is a dire need to educate our people about their responsibility in preserving and harvesting water. Water is involved in almost every facet of our lives; and we dare not use it irresponsibly. Water is life, sanitation is dignity. We may be able to offer beneficiation derived from water; however, we must always be prudent about



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

the use of water. We should always use this scarce resource sparingly”, stressed Minister Mokonyane.

She added, “Now, with the changes in the socio-economic imperatives, the main objective of the project is to raise the dam wall so that additional water can be allocated to the resource-poor farmers as well as meeting the full supply requirements for existing users as well as strengthening the dam wall in line with dam safety requirements. We should also recall that in addition to the raising of the Clanwilliam Dam, the Olifants-Doorn Water Project (ODWP) consists of a number of sub-projects that include the realignment of the road(s), the Bulshoek balancing dam as well as the 256 km canal conveyance system transporting water from the Clanwilliam Dam along the N7 roadway northwards to Lutzville as the last town supplied with raw water,” the Minister pointed out.

The Clanwilliam Dam is a concrete gravity dam on the Olifants River. It was established in 1935, and the wall was raised to its current height of 43 metres in 1964. At the outset the main purpose of the dam was to provide irrigation water to the agricultural region downstream. It has a capacity of 121,800,000 cubic metres.

The dam is but a part is a project which has the necessary ingredients of achieving the objective of bringing about radical social and economic creation of inclusive growth that is responsive to our triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Ike Motsapi