Project KHULISA

- Minister Winde tours Brandvlei Dam Project

by Shelton Kaba Mandondo
The month of September 2016 will best be remembered as the turning point in the history of Project Khulisa as Minister Alan Winde took time out of his busy schedule to visit the Brandvlei Dam Project to get practical and visual exposure of the planned interventions. The Department of Water and Sanitation (Infrastructure Branch) provided the guided tour.

The development of this irrigation infrastructure in the Brandvlei region is a sub-initiative under the Project Khulisa strategic intent “Increase exports of wine and brandy to China and Angola”. It is a collaborative, inter-governmental project comprising 15 institutions from national, provincial government, local authorities, statutory entities and water users association coordinated by the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

Phase one of this project involves increasing the capacity of the Brandvlei Dam feeder canal to allow more water to be diverted into the dam. Increasing the canal capacity entails raising the height of the feeder canal by 30cm. This will result in the diversion of an additional 33 million m$^3$ of water needed per annum to irrigate an additional 4 400ha of productive land. The new irrigated land will generate approximately 8 000 primary jobs, 6 500 secondary jobs and may draw in R2.2bn worth of value chain investment by the private sector.

Phase two, which is still in the planning phase, will involve the provision of additional pumping capacity at Papenkuils (Nekkies pump station) to increase the yield from Brandvlei Dam by a further 51.1 million m$^3$ per annum in addition to the proposed increase of 33 million m$^3$ above.

Minister Winde toured the Smalblaar River and the 4km canal, the Holsloot River and the intake structure of the Brandvlei canal, hot water springs that feed into the Brandvlei Dam and the Nekkies pump station.

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