



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Media Statement
06 February 2024
For Immediate Use**

All inmates at Brandvlei are safe following raging fires

Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola today, (Tuesday, 06 February 2024) visited the Brandvlei Management Area, Western Cape Region, following the raging fires in the Cape Winelands, that damaged the agricultural stores section in the facility.

He was joined by the Deputy Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa and the National Commissioner of Correctional Services, Makgothi Thobakgale.

Minister Lamola went on a walk about at the facility, to inspect the damage caused by the fire which is largely at the agricultural stores. He applauded the correctional officials in the facility for working hard to ensure the safety of inmates and prevent injuries and escapes.

“We applaud our officials for their dedication and efforts for without their swift action, we would have experienced more damage to our facility and possibly escapes by inmates. They have shown that indeed they are fit for purpose and are committed to creating safer communities in the country and they ensured that all inmates are accounted for, says Minister Lamola.

Currently, the most pressing risk at the centre was smoke inhalation by inmates housed at the Medium B Centre. As a precaution, DCS effected the evacuation of 394 offenders from the Medium B, Youth Centre and some from the Maximum Centre to neighbouring correctional facilities. All the other inmates remain at the centre.

Minister Lamola was also happy that operations are continuing at the facility with the remaining inmates secured and officials continue to monitor conditions while they are busy with mopping-up operations.

The fire caused damage to the grazing areas for livestock, as well as some parts of the agricultural stores. The logistics store was also damaged to the ground but there was no damage to the centres where inmates are incarcerated.

Minister Lamola applauded the Cape Winelands Municipality Firefighters for their tireless efforts in containing the fire, the SAPS for their assistance in transferring some of the inmates and all other stakeholders who secured the facility.

DCS can confirm that all offenders who are still incarcerated at Brandvlei are safe and healthy and appeals for their families and loved ones to remain calm.

The Cape Winelands Fire Department is still on the premises, observing and monitoring the veld fires. They will continue to monitor the situation until the fire is fully put out.

Media Enquiries

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