



CLEAN ENERGY: The Robben Island Museum aims to reduce its diesel consumption by more than 40%. PICTURE: FLOPP

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# Robben Island to save R4m a year

Commitment to go green to reduce diesel consumption on island

TNA REPORTER

ROBBEN Island Museum's decision to go green is expected to save an estimated R4m per annum for the museum, as it will reduce the diesel consumption on the island.

"The solar photovoltaic (PV) mini-grid will reduce the diesel consumption of the island by more than 40%. The full extent of the savings will be clearer after a 12 month monitoring process," Robben Island executive manager of infrastructure and facilities management Gershon Manana said.

The decision by the World Heritage Site to go green came about as the museum recognised its responsibility to conserve the islands natural environ-

ment and to reduce its carbon footprint.

"Prior to the construction of the PV with battery bank mini-grid, power for the island relied on diesel generators. With the new PV mini-grid plant we will consume a lot less diesel and envisage a reduction in carbon emissions by about 820 tons per year."

The project, which started in October 2016 and was launched on September 19, 2017 will be maintained by the national Department of Public Works.

Manana said the project also had an impact on job creation in the province.

"The solar PV mini-grid on Robben Island is part of a broader pilot initiative implemented by the national Department of Tourism in collaboration with the management authorities of

government-owned tourism attractions to retrofit facilities with solar energy generating systems. Each project which is a part of this initiative has contributed to job creation.

"Preserving our environment and reducing our carbon footprint is critical to the sustainability of the tourism industry. The construction of the solar PV mini-grid is a shining example of what can be achieved when the government structures work together to preserve our ecological and cultural tourism assets for future generations."

Manana said the mini-grid would allow the island to transition from diesel generated electricity to a form of renewable and clean energy.

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