



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

P.O. Box 7332, Maseru 100, Lesotho • Telephone: (+266) 22 246 000 / 22 311 280 • Fax: (+266) 22 310 665 • Email: lhwp@lhda.org.ls

THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY DISCLOSES PHASE II COMEPNSATION POLICY TO STAKEHOLDERS

Maseru, 24 February 2017 - The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) held a consultative workshop for the Principal Chiefs and Members of Parliament for Mokhotlong to share the newly approved Phase II Compensation Policy at the Mpilo Boutique Hotel in Maseru on the 22 February 2017. The objective of the workshop was to unpack the Policy and allow Phase II stakeholder involvement and exchange of possibility of opinions on the policy document.

In his welcoming remarks, the Honourable Minister of Water Affairs, Mr Kimetso Mathaba said the Constitution of Lesotho and the Treaty that established the Lesotho Highlands Water Project require that all loses that communities incur as a result of the implementation of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project be compensated.

The Minister informed the participants that in line with the Phase II Agreement, LHDA developed Phase II Compensation Policy, taking bringing in lessons learned from Phase I of the Project and affording considerable time and ample opportunity to all relevant stakeholders to participate in its development. He indicated that the Policy has been approved by the governments of Lesotho and South Africa.

He expressed hope that the policy roll-out will enable participants to share understanding of the document which will in turn bring clarity on issues of compensation that they might have to discuss with communities while providing their oversight responsibilities in the areas that will be affected by the implementation of the Project.

In her presentation, the LHDA Chief Executive, Mrs Refiloe Tlali affirmed LHDA's commitment to the restoration and improvement of livelihoods of the communities who will be affected by the Project.



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She indicated that LHDA has already engaged a consultant to assist with the identification of the livelihood restoration and diversification options that will be planned with affected households and communities from an early stage in the Phase II programme, to promote sustainability.

The presentations were followed by a highly interactive questions and answer session which provided an avenue for further engagement around compensation and advance infrastructure works.

The workshop was attended by the Principal Chiefs of Mokhotlong and Malingoaneng, Honourable Ministers who are also parliamentarians from Mokhotlong constituencies, representatives from the offices of the District Administration and District Councils from Mokhotlong, Leribe and Thaba-Tseka.

Phase II of the LHWP entails the construction of the Polihali Dam, the wall of which is going to be 163.5 metres high; construction of the 38-kilometre-long tunnel that will transfer water from Polihali reservoir to the Katse reservoir and construction of the hydropower scheme.

For additional information, please visit www.lhda.org.ls or contact Mr. Masilo Phakoe on +266 2224 6000 or +266 62857272.

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