



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Maseru, 7th October 2013,

COMMENCEMENT OF PHASE II WORKS OF THE LHWP

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority has successfully implemented Phase I of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. This comprised the construction of the Katse and Mohale Dams as well as the 'Muela Hydro Electric power station. The social and environmental programmes are on-going

The preparations for the implementation of Phase II of the Project (LHWP) are underway. This will be realized through the construction of the water transfer components (165m high Polihali Dam and the 38km long water conveyance tunnel) and a pump-storage scheme for electricity generation (101m high Kobong Dam and 6.3km tunnel). Commencement of the work on Phase II was marked by the appointment of CDM International Inc. as the Project Management Unit (PMU) for Phase II on the 16th July 2013. The PMU started its assigned work on the 19th of August 2013.

Based at the LHDA Headquarters in Maseru, the PMU is responsible for the day-to-day management, coordination, monitoring and delivery of LHWP Phase II works and related social and environmental programmes. The PMU is a multidisciplinary service provider with extensive expertise in managing the implementation of large water transfer schemes involving dams and tunnels and the associated infrastructure.

The PMU as part of LHDA, has been employed on a technical assistance contract to implement Phase II of the Project covering all aspects that include engineering, Environment, Social Development, Public Relations, Public Health and Contracts Administration.

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In parallel with the engineering works, the environmental and social issues, which include the livelihoods of the affected communities, due consideration in areas such as resettlement, compensation, public health and natural resource conservation will be afforded.

The programme has already commenced with the implementation of baseline studies and planning of advanced infrastructure which will lead to construction of access roads to the project area, including site camps, power lines, telecommunications, water and sanitation services.

It is envisaged that the during the implementation of the Phase II, there will be many opportunities for work, technology transfer and capacity building for Basotho, while Lesotho will benefit from the new infrastructure developments.

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