



# Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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## COMMUNITIES WEIGH IN ON COMPENSATION POLICY

**Maseru, 01 April 2015** - Communities from the three districts that will be affected by Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) have weighed in on the draft Compensation Policy at a consultative workshop held in Mokhotlong on 31 March 2015.

The communities threw their weight behind the policy. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has involved communities in the Phase II area in the development of the policy that affects them. According to Mrs Refiloe Tlali, Chief Executive of the LHDA, the consultative workshop was a continuation of this process, taking into account lessons learnt from Phase I of the Project.

“We have come to the communities to provide feedback to them as we co-design this inclusive policy,” she said. Mrs Tlali further said the workshop was important for the Project as LHDA wanted to include inputs from the communities in the design of policy. “We are committed to designing the policy with our communities in mind,” she said.

Community representatives were drawn from four councils in Mokhotlong: Mphokojoane, Seate, Mokhotlong Urban and Menoaneng. Leribe was represented by Community Liaison Committees from Mphorosane, Ha Seshote, Ha Ts’ehla and Ha Nts’eli. The ThabaTseka district was represented by committees from Phakoeng and Liseleng.

The ThabaTseka District Administrator, Mr Motsamai Mokoto, commended the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority for involving the communities in the drafting of the policy. “It is good that you have all engaged in these critical issues because it is in order that communities are involved in issues that affect them,” he said.

On the second day (1<sup>st</sup> of April), Mr Tente Tente, Divisional Manager for Phase II, led discussions with the Mokhotlong business communities. He updated them on recent Phase II developments and also highlighted to them the business opportunities that will come with the construction of roads, the building of camps and the upgrading of the telecommunications system and the electricity transmission network in advance of the main construction works in Phase II. There will also be business and employment opportunities during the construction of the main works which are the dam and water transfer tunnel. Mr Tente answered numerous questions from the community members interested in the increase in business opportunities in Mokhotlong that Phase II will bring.

The Phase II of the project comprises the Polihali Dam, a water delivery tunnel to Katse Dam, a hydropower scheme at Kobong or a similar scheme and feeder roads.

**Ends**

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