



# Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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## **CONTRACT AWARDED FOR DEMARCATION OF POLIHALI RESERVOIR IN PHASE II OF THE LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT**

**Maseru, 29 April 2015** – The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is pleased to announce that the Maleka, Ntshihlele, Putsoa Joint Venture has been awarded the contract for the demarcation of the Polihali reservoir, a critical project to be completed in advance of the construction of the dam and water transfer tunnel, which are the main works of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Work on the M8 million reservoir demarcation contract commenced during April and is expected to be completed in 12 months.

“This is just one of many bid evaluations that will be completed during Phase II. Announcing the award is a proud moment for the LHDA. It is an important tangible step in the implementation of Phase II,” commented Mrs Refiloe Tlali, Chief Executive of the LHDA.

The reservoir demarcation entails surveying the approximately 250km perimeter of the Polihali reservoir at 2 080 metres above sea level. This level allows a safe margin above the full supply level of the reservoir. The demarcation of the reservoir area is critical for the acquisition of land, resettlement and compensation of people in the catchment area whose homes and livelihoods will be affected by the construction of the dam. It is also essential for the planning of the Phase II activities.

Ntate Ntshihlele, speaking on behalf of the Maleka, Ntshihlele, Putsoa Joint Venture, said, “We are proud to be part of the most important project in Lesotho and one of the most significant infrastructure development projects in the southern African region. Our appointment is testament to the strength of our team, our methodology and our experience which includes the reservoir demarcation for Katse, Mohale and ‘Muela in Phase I. Indeed, we have a long and proud history with the LHWP. This contract will also benefit the local community of Mokhotlong with regards to employment because almost all support personnel has been sourced locally. This includes the construction supervisors, community liaison officers and labourers who will play a very important role in the project. Financially, this contract is expected to make a significant contribution to our turnover too.”

Procurement of consultants for the Phase II advance infrastructure works comprising roads, camps, power lines and telecommunication systems is well underway, and the procurement of service providers for the environmental and social mitigation measures for the affected areas has also commenced.

**Ends**

## **About the Project**

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is four-phased, multi-billion Maloti/Rand, bi-national Project between the governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa.

It comprises water transfer and hydropower generation components and ancillary developments. The water transfer component entails the construction of dams and tunnels in Lesotho for the purpose of enhancing the use of water from the Senqu (Orange) River and its tributaries by storing, regulating, diverting and controlling the flow to effect the delivery of specified quantities of water to South Africa, and by utilizing the delivery system to generate hydro-electric power in Lesotho.

The major works of Phase I included the construction of the Katse Dam, water transfer and delivery tunnels, 'Muela Dam and 'Muela Hydropower Plant and the Mohale Dam. The Phase II water transfer component comprises a dam at Polihali and a gravity tunnel that will connect the reservoir at Polihali with the Katse Reservoir. The hydropower component will comprise the Kobong Pumped Storage Scheme, or a similar scheme. The implementation of the Kobong scheme is subject to agreement on the outcome of a joint final feasibility study.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is the implementing and management authority for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. It acts on behalf of the government of Lesotho.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.lhda.org.ls/phase2>

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