Empowering communities through skills training in income-generating activities

The Polihali Operations Branch Social Work office recently held its second round of skills training, emphasising its commitment to empowering communities to improve livelihoods by utilizing locally available resources. The training, that took place at Ha Poli in late October focused on equipping participants with practical skills in the production of petroleum jelly, body lotion, lip balm, laundry soap, and other products using locally sourced rose hip.

Eighteen participants from Ha Poli, a village hosting relocated members of the Liphofung community affected by the Polihali Transfer Tunnel quarry in Leribe, took part in this initiative. The training is part of the project's broader effort to ensure that benefits extend beyond directly affected communities, fostering integration and economic upliftment for both host and relocated populations.

To enhance the impact, the team plans to provide follow-up training in branding and marketing, enabling participants to turn their skills into sustainable businesses. Future sessions will also target additional host communities, reinforcing the LHDA's commitment to ensuring inclusive benefits across the project footprint.

This initiative builds on similar training conducted in Polihali earlier this year and was facilitated by Leaps and Bounce, a company founded by Mme Selloane Motsamai. A trailblazer in Lesotho's cosmetics and detergent industry, Mme Motsamai is an inspiring example of how local entrepreneurs can drive meaningful change.

These training programmes complement the LHDA's efforts to guide lump-sum compensation recipients—especially those receiving amounts exceeding M100,000—in generating viable business ideas. Together, these initiatives reflect the LHDA's mandate to improve livelihoods, create opportunities, and ensure that the project's benefits are shared equitably across all communities.