



## LHDA HOSTS RANGE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATIONS WORKSHOP

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) Environment Branch in Mophale recently hosted a three-day workshop for eight (8) Range Management Associations (RMAs) from 25–27 February 2026. The trainings were held at Ha Rapokolana, Ha Montši and Ha Motloang, bringing together farmers and project coordinators to strengthen sustainable land management practices.

The workshop aimed to familiarise the associations with their roles and responsibilities, with a strong focus on rangeland management, wetlands protection and rehabilitation, supplementary feeding, and livelihood projects as alternative sources of income.

Addressing participants, LHDA Mophale Environment officers, Ms. Masetšabelo Moqekela and Mr. Tlohang Ntoa emphasised best practices in grazing management and soil conservation. They encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable rangeland management techniques to prevent land degradation. The two officials further explained that the introduction of income-generating initiatives seeks to reduce overreliance on livestock production, noting that the drive for larger herds has significantly contributed to the degradation of rangelands and other critical ecosystems, including wetlands. The alternative livelihood strategies, they said, are designed to ease pressure on these fragile environments.

The Rural Self-help Development Association (RSDA) was also invited to share insights on the production of Boschveld (Bushveld) chickens, a hardy and dual-purpose breed suitable for community projects. RSDA officers Mr. Monyane Ramothamo and Ms. Ntsoaki Molelekoa further highlighted that the breed is strong, low-cost to maintain, and ideal for rural conditions as they require minimal management and can survive on locally available feed, while providing both meat and eggs for income and household nutrition.

In addition, training on beekeeping (honey production) was conducted, by Mr. Tlalinyane Tota who enlightened that honey produced in Lesotho is widely valued for being natural and minimally processed, often sourced from wildflowers in clean highland environments. He explained that small-scale rural production helps preserve natural nutrients, making it competitive with commercial honey products.

The Mophale Police was also in attendance and Officer Commander Mophale, Inspector Mofolo, delivered an important advice to participants. He urged associations to register their livestock with the Department of Livestock as this would facilitate the swift identification and recovery of stolen animals. Inspector Mofolo, also encouraged community members to collaborate with the police when addressing conflicts, emphasizing the importance of partnership in maintaining law and order.

In conclusion, participants expressed appreciation to LHDA for organising the workshop, noting that it successfully brought together farmers and project coordinators under a shared vision of sustainable resource management and improved livelihoods.