

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGISTS TOUR LHWP SITES



The South African Institute of Engineering Geologists (SAIEG) conducted a four-day tour of the LHWP sites from 23 – 26 February 2026 with the objective of familiarising the team with the major LHWP Phase I installations and Phase II progress.

The engineering team led by SAIEG President, Siyabonga Nyathi, started with the tour of the Muela Hydropower Plant, which plays a critical role in the production of clean energy for Lesotho before the water exits to South Africa.

The second leg of the tour was Phase II of the project, where the team had an opportunity to meet with the senior engineering geologists for the construction of the Polihali dam and the tunnel. The senior engineering geologists further shared with the team, some of their experiences during the construction and that where there are some challenges, they engage with specialists. The major highlight for the SAIEG team was the tour of the newly completed Senqu River Bridge, spanning 825 metres in length and rising approximately 100 meters above the valley. The bridge will also attract more tourism within the area.

The third and fourth days of the tour focused on the Phase 1A Katse dam, a double curvature 185m which is the centrepiece of the LHWP and Phase 1B Mohale dam, 145m concrete faced rockfill embankment which serves as a storage and feeds Katse by a 32km transfer tunnel. On the issue of challenges experienced with the existing structures and the mitigation strategies; LHDA team explained that they work together with Panel of Experts and carry out annual dam deformation and geodetic surveys with RSA Department of Water Affairs.

The SAIEG team thanked the LHDA Management, consultants and contractors for the warm hospitality very informative and insightful LHWP tour.