



## **Historic appointment of woman Commission Secretary marks a new era for the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission**

The newly appointed Secretary of the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission (LHWC), Ms. Helen Buluma, received a comprehensive induction into the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) from the Chief Executive and his executive and management teams. The induction covered an in-depth overview of the project's background, current progress, and strategic direction. As part of her orientation, Ms. Helen undertook site visits to Katse, Polihali, and 'Muela between 15 and 17 May 2025. These visits offered her a firsthand perspective of the infrastructure and development programmes currently underway, bringing to life the details shared during her briefings.

Ms. Helen joined the LHWC in April 2025, assuming leadership of the Secretariat following the retirement of Mr. Charles Mwakalumbwa. A native of Malawi, she brings a wealth of experience from the oil industry and a strong track record in high-level administrative and strategic roles.

Her appointment marks a significant milestone in the history of the Commission, as she is the first woman to lead the Secretariat. This achievement represents a step forward in advancing gender equality in leadership within the LHWP.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, comprising two delegations representing the governments of Lesotho and South Africa, is entrusted with the overall oversight of the LHWP. The Commission advises both governments and serves as the official channel for their inputs regarding its implementation.

The Secretariat, headed by the Secretary, plays a critical role in supporting the work of the Commission. It provides administrative, strategic, and communication support, ensuring seamless coordination between the two delegations and serving as the link between the Commission and external stakeholders.

As Secretary, Ms. Helen assumes a pivotal role that encompasses strategic oversight, financial stewardship, administrative leadership, and governance coordination. Her leadership is central to maintaining a unified vision and ensuring operational cohesion within the LHWC.

Her tenure begins at a crucial juncture for the LHWP, and her leadership is expected to contribute significantly to the continued success and sustainability of this landmark bilateral Project.

