

LHWC Launches Site-based Oversight Programme at Polihali



Members of the Technical Sub-Committee (TSC) on Phase II and the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) conducted a four-day oversight visit to Phase II sites beginning 19 January 2025, as part of their mandate to monitor progress, assess risks, and ensure accountability in the implementation of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Phase II.

Led by Acting Board Chairperson Ms Kanthimaphie Rattay and TSC Chairperson Mr Robert Mbwana, the delegation reviewed tunnelling works at Ha Bereng on the Katse side of the Polihali Transfer Tunnel and visited the tunnel segment factory for an update on production and quality control processes. The Committees also assessed the near-completed upgrades at Katse Lodge, scheduled for handover in March 2026.

Travelling along the 54 km Polihali Western Access Road (PWAR), members inspected rehabilitation works at Quarry 7 and observed progress on the Masalla graveyard relocation undertaken to facilitate road construction.

Over the following days, the delegation continued assessments of key Phase II components, including the Senqu, Mabunyaneng, and Khubelu bridges, progress on the Polihali Dam and Transfer Tunnel, and ongoing social and environmental programmes, particularly community livelihood restoration initiatives, that included the Sekokong Potato Farm, and the Ramonakalali Hub.

The visit concluded with a visit to Oxbow hydropower site and the 'Muela Hydropower Station, where members undertook a station tour, and assessed efforts to address sedimentation in the 'Muela Dam.