

LHDA Strengthens Human Rights and Conflict Management Capacity Among Mokhotlong Security Agencies

In a continued effort to strengthen implementation of the Security Master Plan for Phase II of the LHWP, LHDA recently hosted a Human Rights and Conflict Management training workshop for members of security agencies based in Mokhotlong.

The workshop brought together members of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF), and the National Security Service (NSS). Training covered human rights protection, conflict resolution mechanisms, communication during conflict situations, methods for easing tension, negotiation and mediation, protection of vulnerable groups, and the responsible use of force.

Officially opening the workshop, Polihali Operations Branch Manager Ms Palesa Monongoaha said the training is an integral part of LHDA's commitment to implementing the Security Master Plan, a framework that supports collaboration between LHDA and security agencies to ensure the smooth and peaceful implementation of Phase II. She noted that the training comes at a critical stage as Polihali Dam construction activities intensify. "This training comes at a critical stage where the construction of the Polihali Dam is at its peak and cases of human rights violations are reported," she said, adding that security agencies must continue protecting communities from crime while respecting people's rights.



Also addressing participants, Senior Superintendent Mpiti Mopeli of the Police Training College (PTC) stressed the importance of extending similar training to community leadership structures. "I want to assume that most human rights violations in communities happen because of a lack of understanding. Simple communication and continuous engagement with local authorities can help us protect our people's rights," he said.

The workshop forms part of LHDA's broader commitment to promoting peaceful coexistence, strengthening stakeholder relations, and ensuring development activities under the LHWP are implemented responsibly and sustainably.

Over the years, LHDA has continued to support security agencies operating in areas affected by the Project, including Tlokoeng, Polihali, Katse and Lejone, by procuring operational vehicles and providing accommodation and other operational resources to improve service delivery.

