## Katse Dam Cultural Festival - 2024



Our new LHDA 10-Year Strategy speaks very fondly and excitedly about the contributions that the LHWP can make to livelihood diversification in project affected communities and beyond. One such way is through our support to tourism activities within communities, and strengthening communities' participation in the tourism value chain.

In this spirit, we ramped up our support for, and involvement in the Katse Dam Tourism Festival, an annual showcase of culture and heritage that celebrates Moshoeshoe's Day. The festival is organized and owned by the Katse Action and Aid Community Forum, and this year it was held on March 15th and 16th.

The LHDA participated as a leading sponsor in this year's celebration, supporting the festival with over M100,000 of value in prize money, festival promotions and other support. Members of LHDA's staff who won tickets to the festival were part of an exciting cultural display of traditional song and dance competition, foods exhibitions, competitive bull riding, marathon runs and overall festivity centered around culture and pride in Bosotho!

LHDA management was well represented alongside Thaba Tseka DA, area chiefs and other sponsors and supporters of this important showcase.

Participation in this year's festival included schools from within the project area and district, as well as those from outside the project. Further, entertainment acts attracted attendance from all over the country, signalling an important growth in the festival which we excited to anchor and help grow in the years to come!

A total of nine Villages competed in 7 categories of Mokhibo, Lithoko, Mokopu, Sekhankula, Sexhoza, Mohobelo and Ndlamo; whilst eight primary schools and four high schools also competed in over nine categories.

All in all, over 48 prizes were awarded making up almost M60,000 in prize monies supported by the LHDA.

We are thrilled to have been a part of this year's celebration, which was also marked as one of the key activities nationally as Lesotho celebrates 200 years!

