

LHDA Delegation Gains In-Depth Knowledge in Renewable Energy Project Finance Through Specialized ERC Training



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) recently strengthened its expertise in renewable energy project development as a delegation participated in a 4-day Energy Project Finance Course, hosted by the Energy Research Centre (ERC) at the National University of Lesotho. The training, tailored for LHDA professionals, was led by Ntate Reentseng Molapo, LHDA Executive responsible for Development and Operations, and aimed to equip participants with critical skills to advance sustainable energy initiatives.

Course Highlights: Building Foundations for Success

The intensive program delved into core concepts of project financing, with a focus on renewable energy. Participants explored methodologies financial institutions use to size debt, including various amortization models, and examined the legal and contractual frameworks essential for achieving financial close. Key topics included risk assessment, funding structures, and the role of stakeholders in driving projects from conception to completion.




Leadership Perspective: Empowering Informed Decision-Making

Ntate Reentseng Molapo emphasized the training's practical value, stating, "This course has armed us with the tools to make strategic decisions when appraising and developing renewable energy projects. The blend of theoretical knowledge and relatable local context provided by ERC's seasoned trainers ensures we can directly apply these insights to LHDA's initiatives." He further praised the trainers' expertise in aligning global best practices with Lesotho's unique energy landscape.

Participant Feedback: Confidence and Clarity Achieved

'M'e Sebatatso Rametse, LHDA Accountant, shared her takeaways: "Understanding the intricate legal and financial requirements clarified why some projects face hurdles. I now feel equipped to navigate these complexities and contribute meaningfully to ensuring our projects reach successful implementation."

Anonymous feedback from all delegates echoed overwhelming satisfaction:

- **Enhanced Understanding:** Participants gained clarity on project finance instruments and their application in renewable energy.
 - **High-Quality Training:** The course exceeded expectations, with trainers lauded for their depth of knowledge and engaging delivery.
 - **Call for Expansion:** Delegates unanimously recommended expanding participation to more LHDA staff and partners, citing the program's relevance to national energy goals.
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A Step Forward for LHDA's Renewable Energy Vision

This collaboration with ERC underscores LHDA's commitment to building internal capacity and fostering partnerships that drive sustainable development. By equipping its team with advanced skills in project finance, LHDA is better positioned to lead transformative renewable energy projects that align with Lesotho's socio-economic and environmental objectives.

Looking Ahead

The ERC and LHDA anticipate continued collaboration, with plans to extend similar training opportunities to broader teams. This initiative marks a pivotal step in ensuring LHDA remains at the forefront of innovative, financially viable energy solutions for Lesotho. The participants were:

Frederick Lehloka Tlhomola | Khojane Lepholisa | Khutlang Mabusela | Monyane Leboela | Sebatatso Rametse | Moeketsi Mpholo | Leboli Zak Thamae | Palesa Nkaile

