## LHDA FUNDS SCHOOLS BUSINESS COMPETITION

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, under the Corporate Social Responsibility policy, was one of the core funders of the 'Spelling a Business Challenge 2025 initiated by the Hololo Development Foundation on the 02 May 2025 at Hololo, Butha-Buthe.

The aim of the event was to provide students with a vibrant platform to portray their academic capabilities and entrepreneurial capabilities such as creativity, problem solving and critical thing while demonstrating their entrepreneurial potential through pitching innovative business ideas. One of the main awards for the youth in this competition involved flying top 3 students to the People's Republic of China on a fully sponsored trip for Business related training for a minimum of four weeks, cash vouchers for schools, smart phones for top achievers to contact research for efficiency of their studies.

The assessment of the participants was based on the framework of the following variables: Sustainability of the business, profitability, business viability and business climate adaptability.

According to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Lejone Mpotjoane, the initiative is aimed at bridging the academic gap in the design of our national curriculum to foster business minded youth.

I was never taught about business from Primary to University nor any of us hence the spelling business challenge. This initiative is a platform for young people to express innovation and creativity in the business arena with the aim of more Basotho leading the business centre within the district. Next year we will cover all schools within the district