



LHDA'S SKILLS TESTING AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME - AN APPROACH TO BOOST PHASE II COMMUNITIES' EMPLOYABILITY

Wednesday, the 29th of March 2023 marked yet another milestone in the calendar of the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority, as four hundred and twenty-nine (429) craftsmen from Mokhotlong Urban Council were awarded certificates in building either masonry or blocks and plastering, at the graduation ceremony held at Mokhotlong Pitso Ground.



~ Hon. Min. of Education and Training, Prof. Ntoi Rapapa conferred accreditation certificates to the graduant~

The graduation ceremony followed trade testing process which evaluated the builders experience at BEDCO building in Mokhotlong from January to February 2023, under the Skills Trade Testing Programme, an LHDA initiative implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Training through its Technical Vocational Education Department (TVED) and other technical institutions. This was the third group of builders to graduate from the programme, following the Setae and Menoaneng Community Council graduation ceremonies in March and August 2022, respectively

The Honourable Minister of Education and Training, professor Ntoi Rapapa conferred accreditation certificates to the graduates, who over the years had acquired hands-on skills in building without formal training. He applauded the LHDA for a well thought initiative on trades testing and accreditation of existing skills in the Phase II Project area to leverage employability of locals in the local and regional market. The Minister confirmed that the certificates are recognised in Lesotho and in the SADC region.

Professor Rapapa shared the good news that most of the craftsmen who graduated at Mapholaneng and Molumong under a similar programme in 2022 were reaping the benefits of the Initiative as they have already gained employment in the emerging construction works.

The LHDA Chief Executive Mr Tente Tente, started his remarks by reminding those in attendance that the Purpose of the Treaty that established the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is to boost the economies of Lesotho and South Africa through transfer of surplus of water to South Africa , and by generating electricity from within. Mr. Tente stated that higher economic growth leads to amongst others improved living standards of the people. Therefore, the task of improving the quality of life of people in the LHWP is the central focus of attention in the LHDA's business.

Mr Tente also remarked that the programme was implemented in line with the interest of the graduates, elaborating that the programme followed extensive community consultative process where needs assessments and needs preferences identified trades testing and accreditation of existing ski. as one of the priorities for Phase II communities due to unemployment challenges. "Today's event thus, responds to the Treaty obligation of ensuring that the standard of living of the people is improved and sustained through skills development." Tente remarked.



~ Trade Testing Graduants ~



~ LHDA CE at the graduation ceremony ~