

Building Skills, Expanding Opportunity: LHDA Advances Community Participation in Phase II



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) continues to deepen its commitment to inclusive development through targeted investments in skills development and livelihood enhancement within project-affected communities.

On 26 March 2026, LHDA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training, hosted a graduation ceremony at Katse for participants in the Skills Testing and Accreditation Programme and the Community-Based Tourism Training initiative. These programmes are central to LHDA's broader strategy of ensuring that communities within the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) footprint are not passive beneficiaries of infrastructure development, but active participants in its value chain.

The Skills Testing and Accreditation Programme, implemented in partnership with the Technical and Vocational Education Department (TVED), addresses a longstanding structural challenge: the presence of skilled individuals within communities who lack formal certification. Without recognised credentials, many were previously excluded from employment opportunities within large-scale infrastructure projects.





Through this initiative, LHDA identifies, assesses, and certifies individuals across a range of technical trades. At the recent ceremony, 386 artisans were formally accredited in disciplines including bricklaying, masonry, roofing, plastering, and welding. These certifications are recognized across the SADC region, significantly enhancing both local and regional employability.

Since its launch in 2025, the programme has already benefitted over 1,000 individuals in the Mokhotlong project area alone, many of whom are now actively participating in Phase II construction activities.

Complementing this effort is the Community-Based Tourism Training Programme, delivered in partnership with the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC). This initiative prepares local communities to participate meaningfully in tourism activities linked to LHWP infrastructure, ensuring that economic benefits extend beyond construction into long-term livelihood opportunities.

Together, these programmes reflect a deliberate shift from infrastructure delivery alone to a more integrated model of development—one that aligns engineering excellence with social and economic inclusion.