



CELEBRATING OUR RANGELANDS, HONOURING OUR HERD BOYS!

Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) partook in the celebration of Rangelands and Pastoralists commemoration on the 20th of May 2026 at Metolong Ha Seeiso in Maseru, where five of the grazing associations that LHDA in liaison with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry together with other rangeland management partners established. These associations play a significant role in promoting sustainable grazing practices and preserving rangelands for present and future generations.

As part of its mandate, the LHDA is charged with ensuring that the environment is cared for and protected for the current and future generations. To be able to deliver on this mandate, the LHDA relies on multiple role-players and stakeholders including grazing associations, donor organisations and government ministries which have been charged with the same responsibility.



This celebratory event was officiated by the Honourable Minister of Environment and Forestry, Mr. Thabo Mofosi. He visited the LHDA exhibition stall and underscored the importance of strong collaboration among stakeholders in achieving a healthy land, productive livestock, abundant plant and animal species and thriving communities, "it is high time that all stakeholders in issues relating to environmental preservation and conservation should work hand in glove with each for there to be meaningful interventions", Mofosi explained. He further explained that it is futile for the ReNoka and other role players to be operating in silos if the ministry is to succeed in its efforts of restoring wetlands, rangelands through maintaining healthy ecosystems which are beneficial to both human and animal health.



Also addressing the gathering was the Acting Principal Chief of Thaba Bosiu, Morena Leloko Mohalenyana, who appealed to the relevant authorities to review the current rangeland fee structures. He stressed that such reviews are necessary to prevent land degradation and improve the management of rangeland resources. Mohalenyana explained that weak punitive measures do not deter people from degrading rangelands and wetlands, but are rather an incentive to do so. He concluded that there is therefore a need to hike prices in the lowlands to deter would be offenders.

The commemoration reaffirmed LHDA's commitment to conservation and restoration of ecosystems within its perimeters to sustainable environmental stewardship and the protection of rangelands as a critical foundation for biodiversity conservation, food security, and resilient rural livelihoods as LHDA embarks on 40 years of impact.

In attendance were the Ministry of Forestry and Environment, ReNoka, Water and Sewage Company, community councils, herd boys and livestock farmers.
