

From Informal Trading to Improved Spaces: KKM JV Supports Vendors at Polihali



Kopano ke Matla JV officially handed over newly constructed vendor stalls at the Polihali Transfer Tunnel project areas, located at both the Katse and Polihali sites.

This handover forms part of KKM JV's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme, which seeks to ensure that infrastructure development under the Lesotho Highlands Water Project Phase II (LHWP II) goes hand-in-glove with meaningful socio-economic benefits for host communities.

The modern stalls have been purposefully designed to improve the working environment for local vendors operating around contractor site offices and construction zones. They provide a safe, dignified, and structured trading space that supports informal businesses while also promoting orderliness within high-activity project areas.

Constructed with durability and functionality in mind, the stalls are not only aesthetically appealing but also highly resilient. They are designed to withstand the diverse and often harsh climatic conditions of the Mokhotlong and Leribe districts, including strong winds, freezing temperatures, heavy rainfall, snowfall, and intense summer heat. This ensures that vendors can operate throughout the year in improved comfort and safety.



Beyond physical infrastructure, the initiative also includes practical support to promote hygiene and professionalism in trading spaces. Vendors were provided with cleaning materials and protective coats to help maintain cleanliness and uphold food safety and hygiene standards for both traders and customers.

Community members have welcomed the initiative as a positive step towards empowering local entrepreneurs and improving day-to-day trading conditions. The stalls are expected to contribute to increased business stability, better customer experiences, and enhanced dignity for small-scale traders who form part of the local economy surrounding the project sites.

This intervention reflects KKM JV's broader commitment to community development and reinforces the LHWP principle that infrastructure development must create shared value. By supporting local livelihoods, the project continues to strengthen its relationship with host communities while ensuring that economic opportunities are not only preserved but enhanced throughout the construction phase.

Ultimately, the vendor stalls stand as a practical demonstration that major infrastructure projects can deliver lasting social impact—building not only tunnels and dams, but also stronger, more resilient communities.
