

## **LHDA Board Social Development Sub-Committee Monitors Progress of Key Phase II Initiatives**



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) Board Sub-Committee on Social Development recently undertook a monitoring visit to key Phase II sites of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP), reaffirming its commitment to sustainable development, environmental protection and improved livelihoods for communities within the project area.

The visit forms part of the LHDA Board's ongoing oversight and monitoring responsibilities, aimed at assessing progress on various project initiatives and ensuring that social and environmental objectives are being achieved alongside infrastructure development.

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As part of the tour, the Sub-Committee visited the WASCO Sewer Treatment Plant in Mokhotlong to gain first-hand insight into the operations of the facility and the challenges affecting its maintenance and long-term sustainability. Discussions focused on identifying practical solutions to improve wastewater management and safeguard water quality in rivers and streams that ultimately feed into the Polihali Dam.

Protecting water resources remains a critical component of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. Effective wastewater treatment plays an important role in preventing pollution, preserving aquatic ecosystems and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the water resources that support both communities and the project's strategic objectives.

The delegation also toured major Phase II construction sites, including the Polihali Dam and the Polihali Transfer Tunnel, where they received updates on construction progress and ongoing activities. The visit provided members with an opportunity to observe the scale of work underway and appreciate the significant contribution the project continues to make towards national development, job creation and regional water security.

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In addition, the Sub-Committee visited the Ramonakalali Livelihood Demonstration Hub, an innovative LHDA initiative established to equip local communities with practical skills and knowledge to improve household incomes and strengthen economic resilience. Through various livelihood programmes and demonstrations, the hub promotes sustainable income-generating activities that empower communities to take advantage of opportunities created by the project.

The visit highlighted the importance of balancing infrastructure development with environmental stewardship and community empowerment. By continuously monitoring progress and engaging with stakeholders on the ground, on areas such as the Thaba-Phatšoa where the brush control initiative is underway, the LHDA Board remains committed to ensuring that the benefits of Phase II extend beyond the construction of major infrastructure to include improved livelihoods, environmental sustainability and enhanced quality of life for affected communities.

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project continues to serve as a catalyst for development, creating opportunities for growth while safeguarding the natural resources that are essential for future generations.

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