

Mokhotlong Communities Unlock Tourism and Handicraft Potential



From 16 to 20 June, twenty participants from the communities of Mofolaneng, Mapholaneng, Malingoaneng, and Sani attended a week-long training on craft-making and beading in Mokhotlong. Organised by the LHDA Livelihoods Restoration and Resettlement team, the training builds on previous campaigns aimed at highlighting Mokhotlong's tourism potential.

Mokaliathole Kpanyane, a Young Professional in the Livelihoods Restoration Programme, highlighted that the partnership between LHDA and the Lesotho Tourism Development Corporation (LTDC) has enabled targeted needs assessments, identification of local tourism attractions, and the development of skills initiatives tailored to community needs.

“Our goal is to support communities in establishing community-based tourism associations and developing attractive tourism packages. These efforts will help ensure that communities reap the benefits of the growing tourism industry spurred by the implementation of LHWPII,” said Kpanyane.

One of the trainers, Mrs. 'MakauliLitabe, owner of Flames, a company specialising in the creation of traditional crafts such as the Mokorotlo (Basotho hat), Thethana (traditional attire), and earrings made from indigenous materials like moseea (Merxmullera), spoke of the business potential of handcrafts.

“Craft-making is a viable business if people commit to producing quality, market-ready products,” she said. “I was encouraged by the participants' eagerness to learn how to craft a Mokorotlo. Although they are yet to perfect their skills, their enthusiasm and positive attitude will undoubtedly help them make a mark in the industry in the coming months.”

For Amohelang Phera, a young tour guide and owner of a souvenir shop in Sani, the training was a welcome opportunity. Until now, she has had to travel long distances to Maseru to purchase souvenirs for resale—an expensive and unsustainable process.



“This training will have a direct and positive impact on my business,” she said. “Many young people mistakenly believe that handicrafts are only for the older generation. But by blending traditional craftsmanship with modern fashion, tourism trends, and the reach of social media, youth can not only participate but truly thrive in this space.”

Also supporting the initiative was IDO Beads, a youth-led company using creativity and innovation to combat unemployment. The team equipped participants with the skills to design and produce high-quality accessories and souvenirs that reflect Basotho cultural heritage.

“There’s strong demand for our products—whether in shops, hotels, lodges, or flea markets,” said Paballo Tlhaole of IDO Beads. “Beading is more than just a craft; it’s our livelihood. Young people need to rethink how they view handcrafting and seize opportunities like this to build better futures for themselves.”

These trainings form part of the non-agricultural skills development interventions under the LHWPII Livelihoods Restoration Programme, aimed at diversifying income streams and supporting sustainable community development.

