



## Progress on the Tunnel Boring Machine Assembly at Katse

We are excited to share that since 27 October 2024 when the assembly of the tunnel boring machine (TBM) at the assembly site at Ha Bereng began, work is progressing well. The main body of the TBM has now been substantially assembled incorporating critical components that include amongst others, the Cutter Head.

The TBM assembly is led by a team of specialists from China, collaborating with 23 Basotho consultants and contractors to facilitate transfer of valuable skills and knowledge, ensuring sustainable development and capacity building.

The focus has now shifted to installing the conveyor bridge and main bridge located behind the TBM's main body. Once these installations are complete, the team will proceed with the assembly of the backup decks that will house conveyor belts or other transportation systems to remove excavated material from the cutter head to the surface.

The exciting progress on the assembly coincides with equally thrilling news of the completion of the careful adjudication of the TBM Naming competition process undertaken by an independent panel. In days ahead, the LHDA will announce the highly anticipated top ten shortlisted names which will then be put to a public vote to select the final name for the TBM.

The TBM is expected to commence excavation of the tunnel from the Katse side in early January 2025 while the second TBM that will excavate the tunnel from the Polihali side is scheduled to arrive in Mokhotlong in early 2025. The Two TBMs will be used, one starting from the Polihali side and the other from the Katse side (Ha Bereng).

The construction of the 38 km Polihali Transfer Tunnel involves two primary methods: drill-and-blast and Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) technology. The project is underta

