



Senators visit the LHWP sites.

The Chief Executive Mr Tente Tente hosted the Honourable Members of the Senate of the Kingdom of Lesotho on a four-day high level oversight visit to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP sites) from the 10th to the 13th September 2024.

The Senators representation was made up of the President of the House; Honourable 'Mamonaheng Mokitimi, accompanied by the Vice President; Honourable Tsukutlane Au and a delegation of twenty Senate members.

In line with its strategy to engage with all key stakeholders and disseminate information, the LHDA hosted the Honourable Senators on a guided Project tour, visiting facilities at Katse, Polihali and 'Muela which also included a visit of the rangelands and wetlands in the Polihali catchment area. The purpose of the visit was to appraise Members of Senate on Project progress, milestones and challenges encountered in the implementation of Phase I and Phase II of the LHWP.

As part of its mandate, the LHDA is responsible for fostering strong partnerships with various stakeholders in order to implement the LHWP in a socially and environmentally responsible manner. To achieve this, the LHDA relies on many role players including Members of the Senate whom in exercising their statutory oversight role, are critical in approving the laws that govern the use and protection of the environment, as well as defending and promoting of national interests. It is therefore crucial for Members of the Senate to have first-hand information and appreciation of the ongoing works undertaken by the LHDA.

During a four-day visit the Honourable Senators were provided with presentations on the LHWP by the LHDA Chief Executive and Management. The presentations covered Phase I compensation issues, Phase II Hydropower Component, and various socio-economic programmes being conducted under Phase II of the Project for the improvement of livelihoods for the communities in Mokhotlong and for Basotho. Members also received an extensive briefing on work done by the Project to ensure protection of the environment and more importantly, measures required to ensure restoration and sustainability of water sources for the project.

The visit also covered 'Muela Hydropower Station where the Divisional Manager for Development and Operations; Mr. Reentseng Molapo welcomed members and provided them with an overview of the 'Muela Hydropower Station, focusing on how the station utilises the water transfer system to generate electricity for Lesotho's needs, as well as providing details on the planned LHWP maintenance and power outage, planned for a six-month period, from October 2024 to March 2025. Members concluded their visit with a tour of the underground powerhouse and its associated installations.

