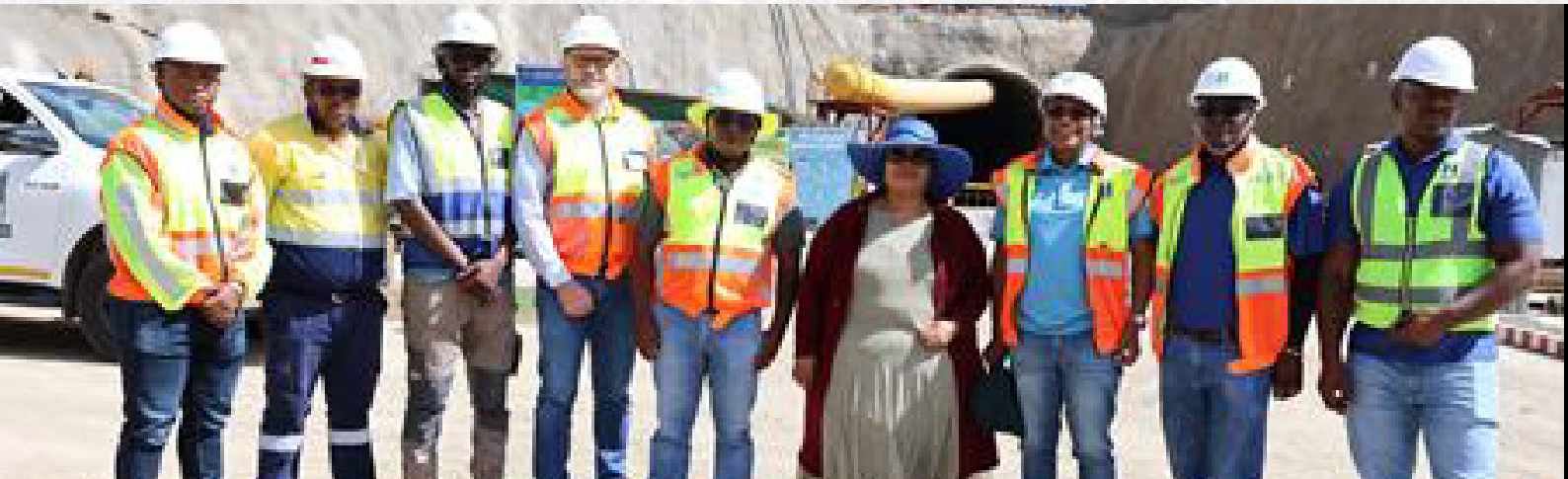
South African High Commissioner Visit Phase II

From the Executive corner this month, we are thrilled to share that Her Excellency Constance Seoposengwe, South African High Commissioner to Lesotho, paid a visit to Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) Phase II areas from the 19th to the 21st November 2024 . In her visit Her Excellency appreciated the ongoing assembling of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) at Ha Bereng around the Katse Catchment, the renovations of Katse and Polihali Lodges, Senqu Bridge, Polihali Transfer Tunnel and Polihali Dam Construction site.

During her visit, she highlighted that the ongoing collaboration and long relationship between South Africa and Lesotho continues to yield good results for Basotho and South Africans. She expressed her delights in seeing women taking the lead in various livelihood programmes around Polihali. She was further impressed with Ha Mojakisane and Sekokong communities for their efforts in the livelihood restoration projects that are supported by the LHDA for the benefit of the affected communities.

In a strong commitment to community welfare of the affected communities, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) showcased its livelihood restoration programmes aimed at supporting communities affected by the construction. Mr. Gerard Mokone, Polihali Operations Branch Manager, emphasized the project's dedication to enhancing the lives of those impacted.

The Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project will transfer water from Polihali Dam to Katse Dam through a 38km tunnel that connects the two reservoirs to increase the current yield of water to South Africa. It is expected that the Oxbow Hydropower Scheme which will be constructed in Botha Bothe will increase Lesotho’s renewable energy supply and take the country a step closer to energy sufficiency.