



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

'Muela Power Station Celebrates Successful Restoration of Unit One

Maseru, 26th July 2023 – The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is delighted to announce the successful restoration and return to operation of Unit 1 at the Muela Power Station. After experiencing an unexpected breakdown on 18th June 2022, the Unit has now been fully repaired and operational as of the 13th of July 2023. This significant achievement not only brings relief to LHDA but also fulfils the government of Lesotho's aim to provide access to energy for Basotho, and reduce the financial burden of electricity importation.

The LHDA assembled a team of highly skilled internal engineers and technicians who demonstrated their proficiency in effectively managing the replacement of hydropower machinery and equipment. The Team meticulously dismantled both the turbine and generator, and finally, skilfully reassembled the entire turbine, shaft, and generator, ensuring the smooth and successful restoration of the Unit.

The return of Unit 1 to full operation is testament to LHDA's commitment to sustainable energy production and contribution to Lesotho meeting its renewable energy targets. With the full generation capacity of hydropower now restored, the 'Muela Power Station will continue to play a vital role in providing clean, affordable, and sustainable energy to the people of Lesotho, bolstering economic growth and improving the quality of life for citizens.

"Indeed, we are delighted to make this announcement, after a year of around-the-clock work by our dedicated teams." said Mr. Tente Tente, LHDA Chief Executive. "This achievement represents a significant step forward in our efforts to providing accessible and reliable energy for Lesotho. We extend our gratitude to the dedicated team whose hard work and expertise made this accomplishment possible. An invaluable experience has been gained, and there are lots of lessons learned to be shared with the hydropower fraternity "

Commented [TT1]: We still don't know what the cause of the problem was. So, there is a risk of contradiction



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The LHDA expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders, international, regional and local partners, and the government of Lesotho for their unwavering support throughout the refurbishment process. The organization remains committed to ensuring the continued excellence of Muela Power Station's operations and looks forward to a future powered by sustainable, clean energy.

About LHDA

The Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) is multi-phased, multi-billion Maloti/Rand project between the governments of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa.

It comprises water transfer and hydropower generation components with associated ancillary developments. The water transfer component entails the construction of dams and tunnels in Lesotho, enhancing the use of water from the Senqu (Orange) River and its tributaries by storing, regulating, diverting and controlling the flow to effect the delivery of specified quantities of water to South Africa, and utilizing the delivery system to generate hydro-electric power in Lesotho.

The major works of Phase I included the construction of the Katse Dam, the transfer and delivery tunnels, 'Muela Hydropower Plant and the Mohale Dam. The Phase II water transfer component comprises a dam at Polihali and a gravity tunnel that will connect the reservoir at Polihali with the Katse reservoir. The hydropower component of Phase II, the Oxbow Hydropower Scheme, is currently undergoing procurement for design of the scheme. The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is the implementing and management authority for the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, on behalf of the government of Lesotho.



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