



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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LHDA'S SKILLS TESTING AND ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME TO BOOST COMMUNITIES' EMPLOYABILITY

Maseru, 05 August 2022-The Ministers of Education and Training (MoT) and Water (MoW) handed over certificates to 184 builders from villages within the Menoaneng Community Council at a ceremony held at Molumong in the Mokhotlong District on 05 August 2022.

As part of its capacity building in the local communities, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Training (MoT) through its Technical and Vocational Education Department (TVD) tested the trade skills of builders around the Menoaneng Community Council, who had building experience but did not go through formal training, the purpose being to enable the builders to venture into the local or regional labour market. The skills testing programme was undertaken at Likhameng and the Molumong Vocational Training Centre from March this year.

This is the second group of builders to graduate from the programme following its launch at the Seate Community Council in March 2022. The builders theoretical and technical skills are evaluated by accredited instructors from technical institutions, under the supervision of the TVD. Testing for other technical skills such as plastering, roofing, carpentry, welding and wiring will be implemented in the months ahead. The programme will also be extended to the western side of the Phase II area.

When handing over the certificates, the Minister of Education and Training, Honourable 'Mamookho Phiri, stated that, "Today we are giving a seal of recognition to the skills and competences of the men who have toiled in the building industry for years but had little to no chance of making it beyond the



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unskilled labour positions because they lacked formal education and certificates.”

Honourable Phiri further explained that the private sector, as the main driver of economic activity, needs a skilled workforce to sustain it and evidence has shown that vocational training and trades skills enhance employability and productivity.

Meanwhile the Minister of Water Honourable, Keiso Mosenene, stated that this programme is in line with the principles of the 1986 Treaty and the Phase II Agreement. “Maximising opportunities and Project benefits for people in the LHWP Project area drive the Phase II livelihoods restoration programme. Today’s certification ceremony is a major milestone in the implementation of this programme. We are confident that this initiative will expand the participants’ chances of employability on the Project or elsewhere, and will go a long way to improving their standard of living,” explained Honourable Kemiso Mosenene.

The LHDA is fully financing the testing fees for participants, examiners’ fees, procurement of testing equipment and materials and other resources.

The LHDA and the MoET signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2019 marking the start of a partnership to develop and implement a skills development programme for communities in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP) area.



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Skills development is an initiative within the broader livelihoods restoration programme, implemented as a critical component of Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project to mitigate the Project's impacts. The programme assists communities and households to:

- identify viable, sustainable livelihoods and supports their design and implementation;
- explore self-employment opportunities and access to wage-based employment;
- acquire skills and the knowledge required to adopt good money-management practices and attitudes towards: spending, saving, borrowing and investing money.

It achieves these objectives by offering support to affected households through projects of their choice with advice from external experts and the LHDA. The ultimate objective of the programme is to protect and restore the livelihoods of those affected by the Project.

Ends.



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About

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, Matsoku Weir, '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 further feasibility studies for the hydropower component of Phase II have concluded that conventional hydropower is the more feasible option to meet Lesotho's energy needs.. The Government of Lesotho has approved the Oxbow site for Phase II hydropower component. The procurement of a service provider for the Detailed Design and Supervision of the Hydropower Scheme has started.

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is the implementing and management authority of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, on behalf of the government of Lesotho.

For additional information, please contact:

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