



Lesotho Highlands Development Authority

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LESOTHO HIGHLANDS WATER PROJECT STRIDES AHEAD

Maseru, 20 May 2015 – “The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has recently appointed three consultants on Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, a significant step for the project and another step towards strengthening the economy of Lesotho,” says Mrs Refiloe Tlali, CE of the LHDA. The three awards, collectively worth slightly more than M40 million, form part of the advance infrastructure works for the multi-billion Maloti, bi-national project of the governments of Lesotho and South Africa. The awards are a contract for the design and supervision of the construction of the Polihali North East access road, a contract for the supervision of geotechnical investigations for the Polihali dam and the Polihali-Katse water transfer tunnel, and a contract for the demarcation of the Polihali reservoir. Work on the three contracts commences shortly.

Contract 3014, the Polihali North East access road contract is for the upgrade of the existing road to a standard appropriate to provide a gravel road and suitable to facilitate the safe movement of construction vehicles during the mobilization of machinery and facilities for other advance infrastructure contractors (mainly the housing contractor(s)) who will require unhindered access to the Polihali dam site. The SMEC-FMA Joint Venture, a joint venture between Bloemfontein office of the international engineering consultancy, SMEC, and Lesotho-based civil and structural engineers, FM Associates (Pty) Ltd, is the appointed consultant.

Jeffares & Green (Pty) Ltd in association with GWC Consulting Engineers has been appointed to undertake the supervision of the geotechnical investigations for the Polihali dam and the Polihali-Katse water transfer tunnel- Contract 3015. The geotechnical investigations will involve extraction of rock and soil for testing purposes in order to provide comprehensive data to the dam and tunnel design consultants. The investigations will also identify the suitability, quality and quantity of construction material found at all investigated quarries.

The demarcation of the Polihali Reservoir contract, Contract 3017, was won by a Maseru-based company, the Maleka, Ntshihlele, Putsoa Joint Venture. Reservoir demarcation entails surveying and constructing beacons around the perimeter of the Polihali reservoir at a level five metres higher than the full supply level. Reservoir demarcation is critical for the acquisition of land, the resettlement and compensation of people in the district whose homes and livelihoods will be affected by the construction of the dam. It is also essential for the planning of the Phase II activities.

The procurement of consultants for the design of the Phase II advance infrastructure works which comprises roads, camps, reservoir demarcation, geotechnical studies, power lines and telecommunication systems, is currently in progress and will continue for the remainder of the year. The implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures will commence shortly in advance of the main access roads, the dam and tunnel contracts.

Ends

About the Project

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

It comprises water transfer and hydropower generation components and ancillary developments. The water transfer component entails the construction of dams and tunnels in Lesotho for the purpose of 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 by utilizing the delivery system to generate hydro-electric power in Lesotho.

The major works of Phase I included the construction of the Katse Dam, water transfer and delivery tunnels, 'Muela Dam and '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 will comprise the Kobong Pumped Storage Scheme, or a similar scheme. The implementation of the Kobong scheme is subject to agreement on the outcome of a joint final feasibility study.

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

For additional information, please visit www.lhda.org.ls or contact Masilo Phakoe, Public Relations Manager, on +266 2224 6000 or +266 6285 7271.