

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SAFER, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Yesterday, the LHDA met with the Disaster Management Authority (DMA) alongside stakeholder and disaster management managers from Thaba-Tseka, Leribe, and Butha-Buthe. Representing LHDA were the Polihali and Mohale Operations Branch managers, supported by our emergency preparedness teams working to safeguard communities around the existing dams, the Phase II construction works and the Polihali Dam.

The meeting aimed to deepen mutual understanding of each organisation's roles in mitigating disaster risks. It was insightful to learn how DMA's mandate has evolved to include protecting livelihoods and ensuring safe habitats for Basotho — including preventing residential land allocation in floodplains, wetlands, and areas with limited access to essential services such as water.

DMA Chief Executive, Reatile Elias, stressed that the Government of Lesotho is prioritising proactive investments in risk profiling, vulnerability assessments, education, and resilience building — shifting focus from costly disaster relief to sustainable risk reduction and preparedness.

As LHDA advances preparations for the Polihali Dam Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP), this engagement set the foundation for strengthened bilateral cooperation. Lessons from the successes and challenges in implementing the Mohale and Katse Dam EPPs will inform and improve Polihali's approach, ensuring communities benefit from robust, well-tested safety plans.

At LHDA, we believe that meaningful collaboration is key to delivering better, safer, and more sustainable services to the communities we serve.

#RiskReduction #CommunityResilience #PartnershipsForImpact #LHWP