

LHDA Starts 2025 Compensation Process



Preparations for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority's (LHDA) 2025 Grain Compensation Drive officially began on 14 July in Maputsoe and Mpharane, marking the start of a critical annual initiative that supports livelihoods in project-affected communities.

As part of the rollout, LHDA recruited 16 local men from a pool of 62 applicants to assist with the grain distribution process. Their work commenced at the LHDA store, where operations were set in motion to ensure a smooth and efficient compensation process.

In parallel, LHDA began procuring grain and pulses from Basotho farmers—a key element of the programme that strengthens local agricultural value chains. On the very first day, more than 7,000 kilograms of beans were collected. Maize procurement continued through to 24 July 2025, with farmers across the region participating.

Among the first to benefit was Mrs. Marelebohile Poopa, a farmer from Mpharane in Leribe, who shared how selling maize and beans to LHDA has brought meaningful improvements to her livelihood.

"The prices are fair, and the process is transparent," she said. "I encourage other women to take up large-scale farming. There is real opportunity in agriculture when we have partners like LHDA." She expressed.

The Grain Compensation Drive is a key part of LHDA's Livelihood Restoration Programme, which ensures that affected communities receive tangible, timely support in the wake of land use changes linked to project activities. The programme also creates short-term employment and injects capital into local economies—all while reinforcing LHDA's commitment to inclusive, sustainable development. As distribution gets underway, LHDA staff continue to play a crucial role in coordinating logistics, engaging stakeholders, and upholding the high standards of service and accountability that communities have come to expect.