

LHDA holds Stakeholder's Conference - 2024



The end of 2023/24 financial year ended on a high note with the much-anticipated public launch of our 10-Year Strategy and hosting of the LHDA Stakeholder's Conference.

Following a series of mini stakeholder conferences that were held across all the FOBs in the weeks leading up to March 26th, the LHDA's FOB teams and management engaged in an all-important activity to convene community members who are directly and indirectly impacted by the project, to share updates on initiatives and the work being done across the project, and more importantly, to receive feedback from the communities themselves on their views and recommendations for the LHWP.

These are an important exercise in accountability by the project and an invaluable process of learning and insights collection.

On Tuesday March 26th, groups representing these same communities were in Maseru at the Manthabiseng Convention Center, sharing to a wider stakeholder audience their feedback.

A common thread across the community feedback and recommendations was for LHDA to be intentional about raising the levels of youth participation within LHWP initiatives, especially focusing on youth from project affected communities.

Further, they recommended LHDA to be intentional about implementing the progressing and forward thinking initiatives they are seeing under Phase II, in Phase I communities.

Lastly, a key theme in the feedback across all the FOB's was for LHDA to truly prioritize action and implementation, over simply speaking and promising to do, and delaying implementation.

This was a plea based on perceived delays in the implementation of various community development and livelihoods restoration and improvement programs that have been spoken about for years.

Morena 'Maseeiso Theko, representing the Mohale Community, pleaded with the LHDA to prioritize psychosocial support services for those resettled by the project, to prioritize ownership of development initiatives by the communities to ensure sustainability, as well as to ramp up efforts in education of compensation recipients in better financial management. She cautioned the project against trusting too much the handover of project initiated efforts to government agencies or bodies that have not been involved from the very beginning and may subsequently neglect the good initiatives started by the LHDA.

LHDA Executive Management, who formed a panel that deliberated the feedback with the communities emphasized our commitment to making use of the feedback to improve the socio-economic outcomes in the communities, and highlighted that whilst some projects were already in place and ongoing, there is room for improvement and the LHDA will work hard to do so.

In his closing remarks of the Stakeholder Conference, Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, Mhloni Moleko commended the LHDA for convening this platform and noted the Government's commitment to ensuring sufficient support to the LHDA in order for it to fully meet its mandate to the project affected communities.

