



## **MRS. SETHEHA TOLOANE WINS LHDA TUNNEL BORING MACHINE NAMING COMPETITION**

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is proud to announce Mrs. SethehaToloane as the winner of the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) naming competition. Her entry, KhoitiEa Ngoahakholo Peli , was awarded the grand prize of M50,000.00.

The name was officially revealed during a ceremony marking the commencement of boring for the Polihali Transfer Tunnel, a key milestone under Phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

As part of the global tradition of naming Tunnel Boring Machines (TBMs) before commencing underground excavation, the TBM for the Ha Bereng to Polihali tunnel was officially named KhoitiEa Ngoana Kholo 2 (KENK 2). This tradition stems from the respect given to St. Barbara, the ancient patron saint of miners, and TBMs are traditionally given female names.

A ceremonial event was held on Tuesday, November 14th, the day before the TBM's launch. As part of the ritual, a cow was slaughtered, and its blood was shed to seek protection and safety for the workers who will be operating inside the 38km tunnel.

Ms. Taolana explained that her choice embodies Lesotho's cultural heritage, resilience, and aspirations for progress. "Khoiti" represents hard work and perseverance, "Ngoaha-Kholo" signifies Lesotho's rich history, and "2" commemorates the nation's bicentennial celebration. The name reflects Lesotho's ongoing journey towards development and innovation.

The LHDA congratulates Mrs. Toloane on her creativity and thanks all participants for their contributions to this meaningful competition. KhoitiEa Ngoahakholo Peli now symbolizes the strength and resilience driving the success of Phase II.