

LHDA Hands Over 82 Boschveld Chickens to Ha-Motloang Grazing Association



The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) has handed over 82 bushveld chickens to the Ha-Motloang (Liphala) Grazing Association as part of the association's livelihood improvement initiatives. The association, which comprises of 42 members, received one cock and one hen per member.

The project was funded through voluntary contributions from association members following the completion of the LHDA brush control project. LHDA further supported the initiative with transportation and technical expertise.

Speaking on behalf of the association, Chairperson Mrs. 'Matsola Letatana expressed gratitude to the LHDA for introducing the grazing association to the community and guiding it until its successful registration with the Law Office. She noted that although the journey was challenging, it was a valuable learning experience.

Mrs. Letatana encouraged members to remain united in pursuit of the association's shared goals. She assured LHDA that the association would take good care of the project, reminding members that while livelihood projects are important for income generation, the core mandate of the association remains Range Management.

LHDA Environment Officer, Mr. Tlohang Ntoa, reiterated this message, reminding members that they are a range management association rather than a poultry group. He highlighted the advantages of bushveld chickens, explaining that the breed is specifically suited to African conditions, has strong natural immunity, requires fewer vaccines and less medication, and thrives even under basic management systems. He added that each hen can lay at least 24 eggs per month **180–240 eggs per year**, even under harsh environmental conditions.

Mr. Ntoa further noted that with hard work and increased production, LHDA would assist the association with egg hatching through collaboration with other associations. He added that in the future, Ha-Motloang Grazing Association is expected to supply chickens and eggs to neighbouring associations such as Bokong and Jorotane. He also revealed that the poultry project is the association's first initiative, with a beekeeping project planned as the next step to support honey production.

Mr. Ntoa further explained that the planned income-generating activities are intended to reduce farmers' reliance on livestock production, where the pursuit of larger herds for maximum income has contributed to the degradation of rangelands and other environmental resources. These initiatives serve as alternative livelihood strategies designed to ease pressure on rangelands and critical ecosystems such as wetlands.

Village Chief Mahanyatsa Moshoeshoe also expressed appreciation to the LHDA on behalf of the community. He acknowledged that although it took time for some residents to understand the value of forming a Range Management Association and participating in voluntary brush control, LHDA's support made progress possible. He emphasized that bushveld chickens are a productive breed known for high egg output with minimal feeding costs, urging members to prioritize proper management.

