

## **PROGRESS ON LHDA CONTRACT 2214: CORROSION PROTECTION OF TUNNEL AND HYDROPOWER INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) is making steady progress on Contract 2214, focused on corrosion protection for the transfer and delivery tunnels, Muela Hydropower Station, and bypass steel linings. Awarded to Corrocoat SA, the project aims to address wear and tear identified during the 2019 tunnel inspection. While some challenges, such as unexpected seepage, have slowed certain activities, work continues with a focus on quality and community involvement, including the employment of 163 local workers from project-affected areas.

In October 2024, the LHDA began dewatering the transfer and delivery tunnels, clearing the way for refurbishment work. Teams were stationed at key points to monitor the dewatering process. Once complete, the contractor was handed the sites to commence blasting and repainting, with LHDA overseeing quality assurance and progress monitoring.

While the project is highly technical, it also required support from other specialists. Corrocoat partnered with Mamino Engineering to manage human resources, ensuring local community involvement as per LHWP policy. To date, 163 local workers, primarily from project-affected areas, have been employed after rigorous testing and training.

The project was initially scheduled for completion by February 2024. However, with only 24.1% progress achieved, delays have arisen due to higher-than-expected seepage levels in the tunnels. These conditions have significantly slowed blasting and coating operations, making the original timeline unlikely.

