

Preferential Procurement Workshop: Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources



On Wednesday, 3 September 2025, the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority (LHDA) hosted a follow-up session with members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Natural Resources, Land Cluster, and Tourism. This engagement built on earlier interactions, including a site visit to the LHWP Phase II and a mediation session between the Mokhotlong Business Forum and LHDA, led by the Committee Chairperson, Honourable Moeketsi Motsoane.

The workshop session aimed to engage members of the Portfolio Committee on Preferential Procurement under Phase II of the LHWP; a topic of significant interest, as it governs the allocation of preference margins and targets, defines procurement thresholds, and shapes local business participation. These provisions translate into tangible economic opportunities for Basotho, reinforcing the importance of inclusive procurement practices within the broader framework of Phase II implementation.

In his presentation, Divisional Manager – Phase II, NtateNtsoli Maiketso, set the scene by updating Portfolio Committee members on progress under Phase II of the LHWP. He then highlighted the current status of participation between Lesotho and South African firms. A key takeaway from the session, as highlighted by Honourable Tseliso Mroke of the Matala constituency, was the importance of ensuring that, while striving for balanced participation, LHDA management holds contractors and consultants accountable for actively developing and transferring skills to local stakeholders. “This approach is essential to ensure continuity and to empower Basotho businesses to play a more prominent role in future phases of the Project,” he noted.

Members were also updated on the status of the relocation project for Phase IB resettled communities in Thetsane and Lesia. Ntate Morake Rakhoba, Manager – Resettlement and Adjudication, provided background on the initial resettlement and compensation processes, leading up to recent concerns raised about the condition of the homes. In response, LHDA engaged a consultant to assess the houses and recommend long-term solutions, while a local contractor was appointed to carry out repairs over the past year to improve living conditions. He concluded by affirming that efforts to resolve the matter are ongoing, with LHDA committed to finalising a sustainable solution within the current financial year.

In his remarks, LHDA Chief Executive Ntate Tente Tente expressed appreciation for the Portfolio Committee members' continued engagement and their commitment to seeking clarity on matters of public interest concerning the LHWP. He underscored the importance of a shared understanding of LHDA's governance framework, noting that such alignment is essential for members to effectively carry out their fiduciary responsibilities and safeguard the interests of local communities as the Project progresses.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee, Honourable Motsoane, commended the LHDA leadership for fostering open and constructive dialogue with the Committee. He acknowledged that earlier engagements had posed challenges but praised the Authority's dedication to building a collaborative relationship. He further emphasised the importance of ongoing information sharing between the LHDA and the Committee to ensure that all stakeholders remain well-informed about the Project's developments and its impact on Basotho communities.

The workshop concluded with a mutual commitment to strengthening cooperation and transparency between the LHDA and the Portfolio Committee. Both parties reaffirmed their shared responsibility to uphold good governance, promote inclusive development, and ensure that the LHWP continues to serve the best interests of the people of Lesotho.

