

Metolong Board of Directors on a tour of the Metolong Programme sites

The Metolong Programme Implementation Unit (MPIU) Board of Directors led by the Chairperson Mr. Mosito Khethisa toured the Metolong Dam and Water Supply Programme (MDWSP) sites on Friday 12th June 2009.

Other Board members in attendance were Mr. Emmanuel Lesoma who is also the Commissioner of Water, Mr. Maboella Lebabo, Ms Refiloe Lehohla and Mrs. Ntsema Khitšane.



Metolong Board Chairperson Mr. Mosito Khethisa with Metolong Authority's Planning Manager Keith Reynolds

The objective of the tour was to inform the Board about progress made on the MDWSP components.

It was also an opportunity for the Board to interact with Programme staff and to discuss issues in an informal and relaxed manner.

The Authority also extended invitations to representatives of the Metolong Programme Funders and Operating Partners. Present were Mr. Piet Swart from the Lesotho Highlands Water Commission, representing the government of South Africa, Mr. Walter Ralitšoele from Millennium Challenge Account Lesotho, Mr. Edmund Motseki from the World Bank and Mr. Sello Sefali from the European Commission.

The tour started at the Mpilo reservoir site above the Lesotho Sun Hotel, where initially a 25,000m³ reservoir will be built to meet domestic and industrial water requirements for Maseru up to the year 2020. Additional reservoirs are planned to meet the post 2020 demand. Water from the Mpilo reservoir will be conveyed to the existing Lesotho Sun reservoir before being integrated with the existing water distribution network.

The tour continued along the Main South Highway to the Lithabaneng junction following the general alignment of proposed transmission pipelines planned to be installed parallel to the road.



Bridge 1 on the Phuthiatsana River - Ha Makhoathi

The next leg of the tour involved travelling along the 32km access road from Ha- Motšoeneng to Ha-Seeiso. The proposed transmission pipelines generally maintain a parallel run to the access road as well. The access road includes two bridges on the Phuthiatsana River, one at Ha Makhoathi and the next near Khorong.

On arrival at the Metolong Dam site, guests were welcome by Chief of Ha-Seeiso Morena

Mathealiara Seeiso together with a member of Ha-Ratau Community Council Mr. Khoarai 'Neko. The guests were then taken on a tour of the Dam and Water Treatment Works sites. The Metolong Dam which will be built on the Phuthiatsana River between the villages of Ha-Seeiso and Ha-Makotoko, will be constructed of Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC) and will be 73m high with a crest length of 210m.

The MPIU's Environment and Social team presented to the guests, an extensive programme meant to mitigate any environmental and social impacts by the Metolong Programme. The Programme and ancillary developments is and will continue to be carried out in an environmentally and socially responsible and sustainable manner in accordance with national and international legal and regulatory requirements.

In his closing remarks, the Board Chairperson thanked the MPIU for affording them the opportunity to visit the various Programme sites and see for themselves, progress made to date. He pledged the Board's support and commitment to the success of the Metolong Programme.

The Board visit follows closely, a short visit to the Metolong Dam site by the Right Honourable Prime Minister on the 12th May 2009. The Prime Minister was accompanied by other government Ministers including the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Natural Resources, members of Parliament and senior officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources.
