

**KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

Ministry of Natural Resources

**METOLONG AUTHORITY**

Metolong Programme Implementation Unit

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**08 September 2008**

**Metolong Authority Receives Expressions of Interest**

On September 4 2008, expressions of interest were received from ten (10) international consulting firms for the detailed design of the Metolong Dam. At the same time seventeen (17) individual international consultants have applied for membership of the panel of experts that will provide independent advice to the dam project. The opening of the expressions of interest was witnessed by Consultants' representatives and staff of the Metolong Programme Implementation Unit. This component of the programme is being funded by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (Kuwait Fund) and the Arab Fund for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

These items of procurement are part of the Metolong Dam and Water Supply Programme that is being implemented by the Kingdom of Lesotho as a strategy to provide potable water to its citizens in order to address poverty and unemployment. The Programme has five main components: Metolong Dam, Water Treatment Works, Downstream Conveyance System, Advanced Infrastructure and Environment and Social Management. The Metolong Programme Implementation Unit of the Metolong Authority is charged with the responsibility of implementing the programme. For effective programme implementation, an independent panel of experts is required to oversee the project preparation and implementation and advise the Metolong Authority, Government of Lesotho and other partners on matters pertaining to the dam project. The actual construction work for the dam is expected to start towards the end of 2009.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has provided US\$ 86.8 million to meet the costs of a programme management consultant; the water treatment works design-build contractor and the downstream transmission system construction contractor. A consortium of Arab Donors, comprising the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), and the Saudi Fund for Development is providing a basket of funds equivalent to US\$ 39 million. They will support the construction of the dam works and associated pumping station, engineering services for the detailed dam design, preparation of tender documents for construction and supervision of dam construction and the cost of a panel of dam experts. The World Bank is providing US\$20 million towards the cost of the environmental and social impact assessments as well as the construction of the conveyance system to Teyateyaneng. The Government of Lesotho will provide funding to the amount of US\$32.8 million for the Metolong Authority implementation organization and advanced infrastructure among other activities that are currently underway.

Procurement for all the components of the programme will be done through a competitive procurement process that has been put in place in order to ensure probity and accountability

of all the funds expended in the programme. During the tendering process, all bidders are required to commit themselves to ensure transparency in the procurement process.

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