

Greater Maseru Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Draft Report Presented before Stakeholders

Stakeholders in the water, development and planning sectors came together in Maseru to discuss the Greater Maseru project feasibility study preliminary report in January, 2016.

The feasibility study was conducted from 2014 by the Jordan AMMAN based company, Consulting Engineering Center (CEC).

When opening the workshop on behalf of the Chief Executive, the Director of Enterprise Project Management (DEPM) Mrs. 'Mamathe Makhaola explained that the purpose of the meeting is to engage all the stakeholders to work together from the initial stages of planning the Greater Maseru Project in an effort to promote integrated planning for the capital city.

Mrs. Makhaola explained that the project was conceptualized by WASCO to address the growing demand for water supply service in some parts of the city. She said the rapid urbanization has seen the city boundaries shifting substantially thus putting pressure on WASCO to extend the supply services to areas that were not under the service territory in the past. She indicated that the Company had been very slow in meeting the water demand from these areas due to old and dilapidated infrastructure which did not have capacity to supply increasing populations. However, with the Metolong Water Supply project coming of age, WASCO is now able to produce adequate water to meet the increasing water demand in the city but just has to overcome the challenge of lack of distribution network in these areas.

As a result, the Company initiated the Greater Maseru Water Supply Project to address the water demand in other parts of Maseru which currently do not have access to clean water services. The initial phase was conducting the feasibility study. The areas that stand to benefit from this project are: Ha Foso, Marabeng, Berea, Mabote, Maqalika, Ts'enola, Tsautse, Qoaling, Ha Ts'iame, Ha Lesia, Ha Ratjomose, Ha 'Masana, Masenod, Ha Luka, Ha Bosofo and Ha Makhoathi. The study according to DEPM examined the technical, financial and economic feasibility of provision of water to these areas as well as development of water supply preliminary designs for planning horizon of 2040.

During the presentation CEC consultants provided a number of options to address the water supply challenges in each of the identified service area and stakeholders were able to scrutinize each option in order to come up with the preferred option. The findings indicated that embarking on water supply project in the selected areas is an economically viable exercise as not only will clean water improve the health status and productivity of the residents it would also improve their livelihoods.

Following the workshop, CEC would be expected to incorporate stakeholders' inputs and submit the final feasibility study report to WASCO, which will then use it to source funding from donors and development partners. The feasibility study was undertaken with a grant that WASCO received from Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).