

RBN Court application to remove the Minister of Land Affairs (now Rural Development and Land Reform) as Trustee

In 2008, the RBN applied for the removal of Land Affairs' trusteeship on the land bought by the Bafokeng community, dating back to the 1870's. The trusteeship dates back to the late 19th century, when Kgosi Mokgatle began obtaining the title deeds to farms occupied by people who swore their allegiance to him. Because Blacks could not legally own land at the time, the deeds were first registered in the name of Ernst Penzhorn, the Lutheran Missionary Society representative in Phokeng, and subsequently the Ministry of Native Land Affairs in Pretoria.

Although the land belonged to the Bafokeng tribe, a principle tested again and again in the courts with reference to mining rights, the trusteeship remained. In practice, the Bafokeng community could oversee all matters pertaining to its land, but the Minister's consent was required each time the community burdened the land e.g. Long term Leases; or undertook any other procedure with regard to its land.

Only with the abolishment of the apartheid laws in 1994 was it possible for

Black South Africans to legally own land, and dispose of it in any manner they saw fit. The RBN's application is thus designed to empower the community that has owned the land for over a century.

This application does not impact the ownership of the land in any way. The Bafokeng territory comprises communal, state, and private land. The present court

application only applies only to the communal portions of land.

As part of the application, the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform in September 2009 conceded to the RBN's case; and the parties agreed to an interim court order in the North West High Court, which allowed all interested parties to join in the application. Numerous

families and community groups have indicated their intention to make representations regarding the application, and several have in fact done so.

The Court will review these and other submissions, and make a ruling in this case later in 2010 or in 2011. All court documents related to this case are on file, and many of them are available to the public.



Mining the Future
The Bafokeng Story

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Vision statement

"We the Bafokeng Nation, the Supreme Council and Kgosi, are determined to develop ourselves to be a self sufficient Nation by the second decade of the 21st century."

Mission statement

"We give our full and relentless commitment to provide our nation with all basic human needs. To provide continued promotion of respect and enhancement of our culture and economic self sufficiency. In all these endeavours we shall not falter in holding our respect to our Kgosi and the Nation, and hold dear our land."

Phokeng on the world stage

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THE POWER OF SPORT

The following is the speech delivered by Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi on the occasion of the opening of the Bafokeng Sports Campus on May 29 2010.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

There are two things that I want to talk about today. Firstly sport, and how it fits into Vision 2020, and secondly, the Masterplan. But in doing so, I'm going to walk all of you through my own journey as a very keen athlete.

In the mid-80s, when I used to come home from school, there wasn't a single sporting facility in Phokeng. Everything was in Rustenburg, and in those days, most people couldn't think beyond race, so facilities were not equally available to blacks and whites. I once approached the owner of one gym in Rustenburg and told him, "I need a place to train." We embarked on a long negotiation, and in the end, he agreed to let me train at his gym, but at really awkward times. It was a beginning.

And so I became a member of the gym, and started working out. And days went by, and I started thinking "this is crazy, I'm going to start doing my own thing and come and go as and when I please." And it was amazing how, in no time, I made friends at the gym, and started coaching the young guys. They wanted to know who I was and where I came from. And they couldn't believe it when I said I was from Phokeng.

The point I'm making is that sport is a very powerful force. It breaks barriers in ways that I can't even begin to articulate. It facilitates communication. And this, ladies and gentlemen, is the power of sport. Beyond just sport itself, it's a powerful communication tool. It is a powerful merchandising tool. How many of you are aware of the advertising that goes on around sport? The selling of TV rights, or the selling of players...

And let me also say that there's no

such thing as an individual sport. Although on the day, in a particular sport such as cycling or running, one person is in play, there's a team behind that person, the coach, the manager and so on. Sport encourages team building. And so with this simple realization, we now want to inculcate these values in our community: camaraderie, teamwork - a values-based society. The Bafokeng Sports Campus is really a part of a puzzle, which is much bigger in size.

And now I want to move on to the Masterplan and Vision 2020. As most of you are aware, we understand that a time will come when the primary resource on which we depend--mining and platinum--will deplete. And so we've embarked on this vision that says we need to force ourselves to think beyond and move away from a single resource-based economy to a diversified economy in which human resources and human capital is a key driver. And in that plan, sport, as I said, plays quite a big role. As a people, I believe we aim too low. It is time for us to reach, to really go beyond what we've been able to achieve thus far. Sport has the power to take us where we want to go.

Thank you very much.



Gareth Simaan (left), CEO of The Cradle Group and Paulo Marchio (right) Royal Marang Hotel General Manager.



A view of Royal Marang Hotel.



Field Band Foundation entertaining the guests.

BAFOKENG VOLUNTEERS MAKE THE HEADLINES

As expected, the Royal Bafokeng Nation has been flooded during the World Cup period with all sorts of visitors from across the globe. Mexicans, Americans, English, Ghanaians, Japanese and many more, including of course plenty of South Africans of all colours and creeds, converged on Phokeng for our six matches.

This influx also translated into plenty of interest – would-be visitors needed directions, advice and information – especially about the “Park and Ride” system. The Newsroom received approximately one thousand phone calls over the World Cup period, and luckily for us, we had some trained and enthusiastic operators to answer the phones...

The Bafokeng Newsroom, run by Martin Bekker and Marcia Moabi from the Research & Planning Department, assisted by eleven 2010 Media Volunteers, answered the calls, disseminated information, monitored media coverage of the RBN, and assisted reporters with their questions, requests for interviews, and other needs. They accompanied hundreds of local and international journalists around Phokeng and the Bafokeng region, facilitated live and recorded interviews for radio, TV and print publications, and made sure that the Bafokeng press materials were in stock.

Eleven young Bafokeng had the opportunity to be part of the Newsroom as ‘2010 Media Volunteers’. They underwent training in a wide range of skills, including call centre operations, first aid and a hands-on introduction to Bafokeng history and heritage. With these arrows in their



Back row: (left to right) Thapelo Molobye, Kgomoatso Kgaratsi, Nthabiseng Thagane, Thabo Makgale, Thembi Molefe, Martin Bekker, Motheo Magano, Happy Legari, Dineo Sefako, Collen Montsho, Oratile Masikane
Front row: (left to right) Lebogang Bogopane, Lerato Rasetlola and Moses Maitshufi.

**“I like the way
the organisation
uses its resources
towards its goals”**

quivers, and with smiles and enthusiasm to boot, they formed a fine team to welcome visitors to the Bafokeng Nation. These are some of their comments on the experience:

“I am not the same person that started the programme – I’m a better person and my people-skills, patriotism, office-relations and knowledge have been upgraded”

“I learnt the importance of planning and preparing for an event or a challenge”

“I like the way the organisation uses its resources toward its goals”

“I learned a lot about myself and how I relate to others in a work environment”

“It gave me the opportunity to learn more about our community – I liked this a lot”

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LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GETS NEW COMPUTER CENTRE

Kelgran Africa, the granite mining company with operations in Kanana, in partnership with Marlin Group and R.E.D quarries and blocks, has donated 20 flat screen computers and a projector to Sekete IV High School in Kanana. The handing-over ceremony was held in the school's auditorium, where the melodic harmonies of the student choir echoed throughout the hall as they entertained guests.

Members of the School Governing Body, sponsoring companies, Kgosana Joseph Rapetsana and various guests were there to witness this charitable assistance from Kelgran Africa. The school's principal, Mr. Namoshe, was very grateful for the gift of IT equipment. "It is a great day for the school and community as learners are going to be computer literate and advanced in preparation for their higher education studies" he said. Subject Advisor for Computer Applications Technology (CAT), in Bojanala, Mrs. Jacobs, motivated learners to make use of their computer studies' lessons as it is their key to the working environment. Jacobs pointed out that it is imperative for every school in the Bojanala region to have a computer center with up-to-date equipment.

Phillip Kgaladi, liaison officer for Kelgran Africa, is the brain behind this initiative. Kgaladi is a former learner at the school and saw fit to give back to the school in a way that would give learners advantages he never had while he was a student. He mentioned that Kelgran Africa is always looking at communities within the area of the mine that need economic and social uplifting. Kgaladi added that this is not the first and last difference they will be making in their community as they have identified certain schools and communities that need assistance. "We are embark-

ing on skills development programs to alleviate poverty in our communities. There are several communities and schools that we have identified and we will be helping them out as well," he said.

Learners were visibly thrilled to have such a donation made to their school. Most of them complained that before the handing over, there were very few computers, which made computer studies difficult. One of the students, Tebogo Maile said, "The computers are upgraded versions and that means as learners, we would have to improve on the subject and go the extra mile." Traditional dancers, who are also learners at the school, ended the ceremony in a cloud of dust as they danced and clapped to the amusement of the guests.



Kelgrans' Phillip Kgaladi handing over the Centre to the Principal, Matthews Namoshe.



A view of the new computer centre.



Sekete IV High School students with the new computers.

If you would like to contribute articles to this newsletter please contact us at:
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Mining the Future The Bafokeng Story



“If I see an obstacle, I just want to overcome it”,
Tebogo Molefe.

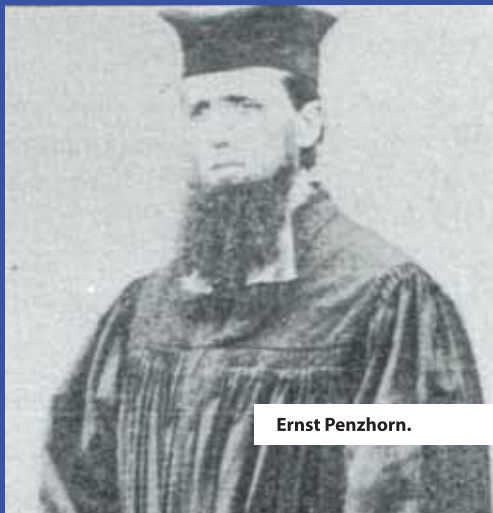


“The reason why I play so many different roles is because I support the vision of Kgosi. He wants to see people in a certain way by 2020. I have been involved in lots of developments for the clan, transforming from old ways into the new”.
Comfort Segoe.

This is a new book, published in June 2010, on Bafokeng past, present and future. It was commissioned by the Research and Planning Department and is now available at selected bookstores in the country. The following is the summary of this book by Ben Mosiane.

Mining the Future is about a resilient people and their visionary leadership – a remarkable story of how Bafokeng acquired and held onto their land and heritage through 150 years of political upheaval in South Africa. It also tells the story of what the Royal Bafokeng Nation is doing with the platinum wealth it currently enjoys, including serving as the only rural community ever to host World Cup Soccer in the history of FIFA.

This fully illustrated volume features members of the Bafokeng community as well as those who played a major role in shaping Bafokeng society (Bapedi, Bakololo, Amandebele, the Dutch settlers, the apartheid state, the Bophuthatswana bantustan). For example, in 1837/9 the Dutch settlers invaded the Bafokeng territory. They “declared that territory to be their land, and the black people within it as their subjects”.



Ernst Penzhorn.

The president of the Boer Republic, Andries Hendrik Potgieter, and another prominent leader who later became the president of the Transvaal (Paul Kruger), rewarded Bafokeng because of their support of the Dutch during the war between the Dutch settlers and the Mzilikazi’s warriors (the latter had hitherto invaded and occupied the Bafokeng territory). The settlers rewarded Bafokeng by allowing them to stay on the farm Kookfontein 265. However, Bafokeng still could not claim land ownership with any certainty because “white settlers encroached on these lands very soon afterwards and dispossessed Bafokeng” (Bergh, 2005: 101).

The Boers’ demand for free Bafokeng labour, the payment of exorbitant rent on the Boer farms by Bafokeng, Paul Kruger’s reclaiming of a farm he has given to Bafokeng as a reward, the tendency for the Boers to demand slaughter cattle from Bafokeng, and Paul Kruger’s reclaiming of twelve oxen from Bafokeng after the failure of his harvest, have all been

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“Opportunities are there but we need to change our mindset”.

Gabriel Lenkwe.

expressed as acts of extortion. These Boer actions, also seen as terror tactics, “led to the decision by Bafokeng to purchase land”. Christoph Penzhorn of the German Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission and Paul Kruger were instrumental in this process.

Overall, one of the key points that the book is making is that the lesson learned from several generations of Bafokeng leaders is a profound understanding that you cannot get real change through a quick fix, but that it takes years, often decades, to effect real and lasting transformation. It is with this understanding that the book speaks to the contemporary issues faced by Bafokeng: the challenges faced by the Bafokeng youth, the implications of global economic interdependence, issues around education, enterprise development, environmental sustainability, health and social development, agriculture and food security, sports, public and community utilities.

The other point that the book is making is that the Bafokeng ancestors have achieved extraordinary things that continue to inspire the present generation to imagine an extraordinary future. Accordingly, and in order to raise the governance system of the Royal Bafokeng Nation to the level of the contemporary social, economic, and political challenges, the chairpersons, treasurers, and secretaries of Makgotla are being trained in management, communication skills, etc. Dikgosana attend regular training courses on key issues like leadership and financial planning. Kgosi

Leruo Molotlegi’s top priority concerning Vision 2020 is to equip Bafokeng for the future, both with skills and with a sense of possibility. Indeed, the values that are vital to that vision are being instilled through the Royal Bafokeng Sports: sport not only offers the opportunity of attaining health and physical fitness in the form of recreation, but it also promotes values of discipline, team spirit, self-esteem and a commitment to continuing self improvement. Moreover, the Royal Bafokeng Institute, Royal Bafokeng Enterprise Development, Health and Social Development Services, Safety and Security, are some of the institutions that have been established to make Vision 2020 a reality.

At the level of individual and group responsibility, the book explicitly states that “We do not want to create a culture of dependency. We want to create a culture and environment in which communities and individuals are encouraged to stand on their own feet and take control of their future” (p. 9). Accordingly, Mme Ntebe Sedikwe, coordinator of the Chaneng Association for the Blind, says “We are doing it for ourselves”.

Bernard Makgaka and Gabriel Lenkwe encourage young people to be involved in their communities and to take charge of their own futures.

“If I see an obstacle, I just want to overcome it”, says Tebogo Molefe.

After completing school, and before going to study at Tshwane University of Technology on Bafokeng loans, Jacob Sello-Khumalo and Thabo Mosenyi spent an extra year helping high school learners with their Mathematics. They felt that it was important to ‘plough back’ some of the skills and opportunities that had been opened up for them.

Comfort Segoe is proud of being Mofokeng:

“The reason why I play so many different roles is because I support the vision of Kgosi. He wants to see people in a certain way by 2020. I have been involved in lots of developments for the clan, transforming from old ways into the new”.

Tshepang Maelangwe is passionate about being Mofokeng and has said that being Mofokeng is about being the best in Africa.

According to Kagiso Mogale, there is no such word as impossible. We should be our own leaders, stand up and do it for ourselves.



Kgosi Mokgatle.

For Mmamothofela, “I only reached Standard Two, but I am doing better than people with schooling”.

Indeed Mining the Future is not the full story of Bafokeng past, present and future. It is meant to be a stimulating introduction to the Bafokeng heritage and their dreams for the future. It is meant to give them insight into the challenges faced by the Bafokeng administration, and to spark creative conversations and critical debates about the future.

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SCHOOLS UPGRADING – AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL SMME'S

Crowded classrooms and a library that serves as a staffroom are not conducive to productive learning. Local schools have had to deal with many such challenges. That is not to be for much longer, as an intervention by the Royal Bafokeng Institute is coming to aid some schools, namely Kanana, Motsitle, Thekwane, Bafokeng, Thethe and Mmanape schools.

The RBI project sponsor, Kenny Rakgomo, sees this project as very important in improving learning in Bafokeng schools. He said a library should be used as such and not as a staffroom and learners need a comfortable environment where they are able to receive quality education and upliftment.

For the local SMME's the upgrading of these schools is an opportunity to show their skills in construction work and to contribute to education reform in the region. A number of local SMME's were sub-contracted to do paving, tiling, welding, carpentry and electrical projects.

Notwithstanding all the challenges the small contractors were faced with, the co-operation and commitment by all, according to the Project Manager, Paul



Left: Kenny Rakgomo and Modise Nkotsoe.

Nkwana, kept everything together. Nkwana was also excited that the upgrading of all the schools was completed in record time with no injuries or fatalities reported.

Community Liaison Officer at RBA, Sana Mokone, added that this was a good opportunity for locals who have skills, but hardly get contracted anywhere: "This was a job well done as some of the locals were given an opportunity to unleash their skills in contributing to better local schools" she said.



Bafokeng Crafters scoop Gold Medal at Rustenburg Show

For the second year in a row, the Bafokeng Crafters have won a Gold Medal at the Rustenburg Show for their outstanding exhibition. At the end of May, about 20 Non Profit Organizations from the Bafokeng community participated in the exhibition where they not only showcased their different talents but also gained exposure to prospective clients.

The stalls that lined the exhibition hall displayed nothing short of outstanding artwork, mostly handmade. The different items on display included beaded jewellery, handmade rugs, wooden carvings of different animals and birds, paintings, pottery and traditional clothing, handmade bed linen, curtains and health products.

Matamake Mothiba, the Manager in charge of these NGO's in the Health and Social Development Services was extremely happy with their achievement, saying it

only proves that people have talents which, when put to good use, can help them to improve their own lives. She said the main aim of establishing and support-

ing organizations like these, is to reduce the rate of unemployment, create jobs, alleviate hunger, transfer skills and to revive the spirits of those who are in need

of care.

Tebogo Boikanyo and Lorraine Khoza are some of the crafters who took part at the show. They started making beaded jewellery in 2007, without any formal training and not intending to sell the goods. Today, their project called Brotherly Love is a huge success as people have started to place orders for their items. "We use special beads such as tiger-eye beads, swarovski crystals and pearls in creating our jewellery. It is a rewarding yet complicated job to do. At times you need to dismantle the product and re-do it all over again if you make a mistake."

NGO's are non profit making but people oriented organizations that rely mostly on donations but are committed to addressing people's basic needs and improving the human conditions.



One of the stands at the Show.

BAGODI BA AMOGEDISIWA DIKOBO

Maloko a morafe wa MaMoseleme wa Zinniville ba ithaopile go direla baagi ba ba tlhokang ka go ba abela dijo le diaparo ka gale. Ba ne mo malobeng ba etela bagodi le bana ba dikhutsana ba kwa Lenatong ka fa tlase ga mekgathlo wa tlhokomelo ya bagodi wa Kutwane, go ba abela dijo, melemo, dikobo le diaparo tsa mariga.

Fa a ne amogela dithoto tse mo boemong jwa bagodi, Mmemogolo Semane Molotlegi o ne a leboga Morafe wa MaMoseleme thata, le go ba rotloetsa go tswelala go ithaopa go direla ba ba tlhokang. O rile boithaopi jwa mofuta o, bo tla netefatsa gore baagi segolobogolo bagodi, ba bona tlhokomelo le gore ba kgone go tshela botshelo jo bo botoka.

Ngwaga le ngwaga Morafe wa MaMoseleme o etela metsana e e farologaneng mo Rustenburg le tikologo, go ba abela dithoto tsa mofuta o tseo di akaretsang melemo. Se ba se dirile ka tshwaragano le lefapha la RBA la Pholo le Katlatlelo-loago, leo le dirang le mekgathlo e e farologaneng ya tlhokomelo ya bagodi le bana.

Go ya ka Mme Mamakie Mothiba, motsamaisi wa mananeo a bagodi mo lefapheng, tirisano mmogo ya bona le morafe wa MaMoseleme ke e e namatshang thata. A re ka gale morafe o, o ithaopa go thusa mo mananeong a katlatlelo-loago, mme monongwaga ba thusitse le bona bana ba dikhutsana ka go ba abela ditricksuits di ka nna 150. Mme Mothiba a re, kabelo ya mofuta o, e dira pharologanyo e tona thata mo baaging, mme ba lebegela thata seabe sa baagi ba Zinniville.

Kutwane Luncheon Club ke nngwe ya mekgathlo e le some-tharo ya tlhokomelo ya bagodi, eo e dirang le lefapha go tokafatsa maphelo a bagodi ka go ba tlosa bodutu. Maloko a mekgathlo e, a kopana gangwe le gape go dira ditiro tse di farologaneng jaaka go itshidila, go loga, go roka le gona go dira ditshingwana tsa merogo.

Go bagodi botlhe ba ba neng ba le gona, go ne go bonala boitumelo mo difatlegong tsa bona, ka dimpho tseo di tlileng ka nako e e tshwanetseng go thibela serame sa mariga. Kwa bofelong, Mme Mothiba o ne a rotloetsa bagodi ba botlhe go netefatsa gore ba ikwadisa le mekgathlo e tshwana le e, gore le bona ba kgone go tsaya karolo mo go tokafatseng maphelo a bona.



Bagodi ba ne ba tlile ka bontsi go tla go amogela dimpho.



Mmemogolo Semane Molotlegi le baabi ba dikobo.

Black empowered company to supply sinter plant to the Xstrata Merafe PSV (pooling and sharing venture)

Black empowered RB Met Engineering (Pty) Ltd [a joint venture between Metix (Pty) Ltd and Royal Bafokeng Metix (Pty) Ltd] has been awarded a contract to supply and install a pelletising and sintering plant for Xstrata

Merape PSV's ferrochrome plant located in Rustenburg. The contract is subject to an environmental permit being issued by local authorities in Rustenburg.

RB Met's scope includes detailed

engineering, procurement, construction, and commissioning of a 600,000 tonnes per annum chromite pelletising and sintering facility. The core technology utilised for this project shall be provided by Outotec OYJ. This Outotec® Ferrochrome process improves energy efficiency and

reduces the carbon footprint of the plant.

Metix, who have successfully completed the last five chromite pelletising and sintering plants built in South Africa, shall manage the project on behalf of RB Met.