

bokgabane

botoka le botoka – better and better

from the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

June 2012

Issue 3 • Volume 6



IN THIS ISSUE:

Project Spotlight	02
Project Manager of the Month	04
www.rbnoperationsroom.com	05
Project Management Corner	05
Bokgabane Quiz	06

STILL TAKING PLACE

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

COMPLETED PROJECT

Kgotha-Kgothe April 2012

Project manager: Minah Huma

Kgotha-Kgothe, a 'mass gathering' of the RBN community, takes place twice a year at the Bafokeng Civic Centre. This event provides an opportunity for *Kgosi* Leruo Molotlegi to reflect on the goals stated in his RBN Review and for the community to ask questions or make comments related to the annual report.



Due to the magnitude of the event, Kgotha-Kgothe is a project that requires proper planning, dedication and team work. The importance of the event is clear as its main beneficiary is the RBN's most important stakeholder, *Morafe*.

The Kgotha-Kgothe project involves many activities such as catering for two meals per person, breakfast and lunch, to the 1928 people including approximately 1000 kids; erecting of marquee tents and audio visual equipment; and information sharing by the different RBN entities. At previous Kgotha-Kgothe events youth volunteers were recruited to assist with the distribution of the food at the event, bus coordination in all villages as well as registration of attendees, but at this year's first Kgotha-Kgothe in April the RBN staff was given the responsibility of attending to *Morafe*'s needs; allowing for interaction between staff and the people they serve.

In addition, the RBN seeks to make use of as many local SMMEs as service providers during this event as possible. Various catering companies are given an opportunity to provide food, some provide tables and chairs, while others provide tents and other materials utilised during the event. In total, 18 local SMMEs were utilised with a total procurement spend of R 358 883.78.

In addition to the SMMEs, 32 Youth Volunteers also benefitted from the event. They were employed on a stipend of R200 per day to serve as ushers and assist in the logistical matters of the event.

Because of the project's benefits, coupled with the desire of *Kgosi* Molotlegi to have the whole community attend the event, much is done to notify and inform *Morafe* of the details of the gathering in advance. People are notified through various means such as billboards, local news papers and radio station, and via the OPMO's Bulk SMS System.

The planning phase of the second annual Kgotha-Kgothe project for 2012 will commence shortly and feedback on all the questions, concerns and comments that *Morafe* raised during the April Kgotha-Kgothe will be given.

FEATURED PROJECT

Backyard Gardens

Project manager: Gabriel Lenkwe

Food Security, as part of the fight against hunger, malnutrition and poverty, was identified as one of the RBN's ten Strategic Focus Areas. In an attempt to contribute to this focus area the Royal Bafokeng Health and Social Services department implemented the 'Backyard Gardens' project.

The enormity and unfamiliarity of this project posed various challenges during the planning phase of the project, including not knowing where to start. The project team concluded that the most appropriate starting point would be to identify people who have passion for gardening.



The regional youth coordinators were utilised to identify out of school youth, from all regions within the Royal Bafokeng Nation, who share a passion for agriculture. After a series of interviews, thirty candidates were selected. These young men and women were given the opportunity to be trained as small scale farmers. They also signed a binding contract whereby they were told to produce vegetables which will be used in their respective households and those of their neighbours. They were provided with gardening tools and regular monitoring for a period of one year by the project manager. In addition, they will be attending a basic business management training workshop to prepare them to become entrepreneurs.



The aim of the project is to promote a positive mindset in youth and adults and help eradicate poverty through training young people to be self-reliant. It is the belief of the manager that this project will only be successful if the selected small scale farmers will become so equipped that they transfer the skills acquired to their friends and siblings.

The backyard gardening project also offers some indirect benefits over and above those mentioned before. Some examples include saving money by not having to buy food from the store and also obtaining fresh organic food instead of conventional store-bought food. Some research suggests that home grown vegetables have 50% more nutrients and vitamins as compared to so-called conventional food (food grown using chemicals).

Even though only thirty young people were identified to pilot this project, it is advised that anyone who has interest in starting their own backyard garden should contact Mr Gabriel Lenkwe on 014 566 1334 for more information.

Mr Casey Last, the new Royal Bafokeng Agricultural Manager stated that everybody can produce food for themselves, that backyard gardens can sustain a family and that the whole family can work together to start and maintain the garden.

PROJECT MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Michel Kops

- **What is your role in Emergency Medical Services (EMS)?**
 - *Emergency Medical Services Manager and to plan strategically for the future development of the service.*
- **How long have you been in the organisation's employ?**
 - *I joined the organisation in July 2010.*
- **Tell us briefly about EMS and its importance in the Bafokeng Nation?**
 - *Emergency Medical Services caters for emergency and non emergency situation. It is an essential service that community members rely entirely on in emergency situations.*
 - *The importance of the service is to receive medical emergency calls and to respond promptly to life threatening situations within the 'golden hour'.*



- **Since you joined EMS, how many projects/programmes have you managed and how many are you currently working on?**

Programs	Projects
Satellite Stations	Emergency Medical Centre
First Aid Courses	Centralized Call Centre
Fire Unit	Conversion of New ambulance

- **In what ways do you think these projects/programmes have or will improve life for Morafe?**
 - *By strategically planning and upgrading the emergency services to meet the National Standards and Ratio of Resources available to service Morafe.*
- **Has the MPS assisted you in managing your projects and programmes? If so, how?**
 - *Assisted us constantly in monitoring the progress of the projects/programs.*
 - *By weekly updating the issues of concern and attending to them promptly.*
- **As a project/programme manager what, in your opinion, is the number one skill that all project managers should have?**
 - *Projects managers should be dedicated in, time management, perseverance and poses strong leadership skills.*
- **What are some of the challenges you have encountered while managing projects and programmes, and how did u manage these challenges?**
 - *Interdependencies of external and internal service providers.*
- **Do you have any words of advice for other projects managers?**
 - *Friendly, competent support within the MPS demystifies the system and encourages users – I would advise all new project managers to take advantage of the assistance so willingly offered.*

www.rbnoperationsroom.com

Web traffic on the Operations Room website:

Month	Site visits	% New visits	Average time on site	Average pages per visit
May 2012	1784 visits from 54 countries (1510 – SA; 36 – US; 30 – India) 909 unique visits	42.15%	00:05:17	3.26
April 2012	1305 visits from 54 countries (1089 – SA; 27 – US; 19 – UK) 679 unique visits	41.30%	00:04:32	3.08
March 2012	1621 visits from 45 countries (1420 – SA; 33 – US; 25 – UK) 746 unique visits	36.83%	00:04:44	2.92

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

What are “Strategic Objectives”?

Strategic objectives are areas of **organisational performance** that are critical to the achievement of its mission. They are areas that describe the strategic direction of the organisation. They directly influence the outcomes of the organisation.

The RBN’s Strategic Objectives are:

1. To reduce poverty by building a clean, healthy, safe and sustainable community
2. Facilitate higher and shared economic growth and development
3. Provide quality basic services and infrastructure
4. Ensure good governance, financial viability and optimal institutional capacity to execute our mandate

Bokgabane Quiz:

Have a go at the Bokgabane Quiz! Three winners will be randomly selected from the correct responses.

1. How many local SMMEs benefitted during the Kgotha-Kgothe project?
2. How many youths were selected to participate in small scale gardening training?
3. Name any project that Michel Kops is currently managing.
4. How many Strategic Objectives does the RBN have?

Last month's winners: Please come to collect your prizes from the OPMO.

Congratulations to:

1. Patience Sikwane
2. Tsholofelo Namane
3. Alta Bester

BOKGABANE:

Publication of the RBN OPMO

EDITOR

Dr Elmie Castleman

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR & PUBLISHER

Jean Slabbert

FLOATING PRODUCTION MANAGER

Ororiseng Mapeka

SUB-EDITOR

Martin Bekker

PHOTOGRAPHER

Lebogang Bogopane and Patricia Mosito

THIS MONTH'S CORRESPONDENTS

Gabriel Lenkwe, Minah Huma, Casey Last.

Please send your answers, queries and/or comments on Bokgabane to the OPMO at pmo@bafokeng.com