

bokgabane

botoka le botoka – better and better

From the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED PROGRAMME

Establishment of Photsaneng Bakery

Programme Manager: Mamakie Mothiba

According to The Economic Watch, unemployment and poverty are two of the major challenges facing the world economy at present. They continue that unemployment leads to financial crisis and reduces the overall purchasing capacity of a nation. This, in turn, results in poverty followed by increasing burden of debt. The World Bank defines poverty as a financial condition where people are unable to maintain the minimum standard of living. And the people residing in the RBN are not exempted from poverty and its ramifications.

The RBN and its entities have been trying to initiate ways to combat poverty and reduce unemployment in the area. One of the ways in which it attempts to do so is through encouraging the establishment of NGOs and SMMEs. For this to succeed, it is important to identify and equip interested individuals with the necessary skills to establish their own businesses.



An NGO comprising of a group of such interested individuals from Photsaneng, one of 29 RBN villages, came up with an idea of starting their own bakery. The name of the NGO is “Thari ya Thitelle”. They hoped that establishing their own business would create jobs and help eradicate poverty within their village. They subsequently approached the RBA for assistance; specifically with respect to where to start in order for them to establish their own business. The RBA then referred this NGO to RBH who, in collaboration RBHSDS, offered to come on board to assist with funding this project as they were able to anticipate the benefits of this business in the lives of community members.

The Establishment of Photsaneng Bakery project started at the beginning of 2014 through the identification of an ideal structure which was transformed into a Bakery. A service provider who was to be in charge of establishing the bakery was appointed. The 15 identified members of the NGO are undergoing skills development training where they will be equipped with the skills to manage and sustain their business.

One of the risks identified for this project is vandalism by community members which may impact negatively on the success of the project. To mitigate this risk, the project manager had to ensure that there is reliable security at the bakery at all times. Another important measure taken to mitigate this risk is to involve traditional leadership in the project from the onset. Members of the community need to be informed via presentations at Makgotlas and Dikutle of the project and its positive impact on the lives of the Photsaneng community.

The Establishment Photsaneng Bakery project is expected to complete by the end of 2014, and the bakery will start operating in January 2015. Currently, the identified service provider is proceeding with renovating the structure to become a fully equipped bakery. The success of the bakery is expected to create employment opportunities and eradicate poverty in Photsaneng and surrounding villages.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED PROJECT

Bafokeng Plaza Project

Project manager: Thandeka Cwati

The Bafokeng plaza was officially opened in 1997 with 52 tenants. The RBN owned a few shops of their own such as Steers, Spar, Mighty pies and Milky Lane and the other space was leased to SMMEs; with 20 of them being local. The main objectives for the establishment of Bafokeng plaza were the creation of employment opportunities, for locals to have easy access to consumable goods without having to go to Rustenburg town, and to generate an income for the RBN from the rental paid by SMMEs and profit made from the shops owned by RBN.



It was later identified that the tenants mix at the plaza was not planned or researched for the needs of the community and, as a result, the community continued to go to Rustenburg town for their shopping. Many tenants suffered losses at the Bafokeng plaza which resulted in them not being able to pay rent and other basic services like water and electricity. The Bafokeng plaza made a loss instead of the intended profit.

An urgent solution was needed on how to manage the Bafokeng Plaza in a manner that would render it profitable. An investor, Herriot Properties, entered into a lease agreement with the RBN. The first phase of this project was to transform the plaza into a fully fledged Mall.

The project was scheduled to commence on 6 January 2014 and end on 31 March 2015. The construction and refurbishment of the new Bafokeng Mall and the allocation of business space to local businesses in order to ensure that the local SMMEs benefit are the primary focal points of this project. In addition, the project aimed to ensure that local community members are employed in the construction process by liaising with the community liaison officer.

Regular team meetings were included in the plan so as to make sure that all parties involved were updated regularly on the progress of the project and to discuss possible solutions whenever they encounter challenges within the project.

A risk of unavailability of skilled labourers was identified as a potential concern. This risk was mitigated by approaching RBI for the list of all required trades per individual which assisted in appointing adequately skilled local individuals. Another possible risk was that the lease agreement would not be signed on time. Despite all efforts, the lease contract was not signed on time, which resulted in an issue that delayed the project start date by three months. The contract was eventually signed and the project is currently well underway and 38.3% of the project has been completed.

The construction of the Bafokeng Mall hopes to boost the local economy by reducing unemployment and generating income for Morafe during the project life cycle and beyond.

➤ PROJECT MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Ratanang Selomane

- **Tell us about yourself?**

- *I matriculated at Thehe High School in 2004 and went on to study and obtained my BA Degree: Conservation Tourism & Sustainable Development at the NWU Mafikeng Campus, and building a better Business at BSSA Pretoria Campus.*
- *After completing my studies I worked as an Intern at Mputle's Tourism Consulting, Intern: Tourism Department (Royal Bafokeng Local Economic Development), Assistant Enterprise Development Consultant (RBED), Enterprise Development Consultant (RBED).*



- **What is the most satisfactory thing about your work?**

- *I do what I am passionate about; Small Business Development is something which I am zealous about. My very first job as an Intern at Mputle's Tourism Consulting, I was responsible for establishment of local B&B's and this instilled the love for small business development that I have today.*

- **Which one of the projects that you have done, do you consider to be the most significant and why?**

- *Solar Project*
- *The project covered most of our objectives; which was to create temporary jobs, one sustainable business for a local where the owner was given training and accreditation for solar power projects. (job creation and sustainability)*
- *It also benefited the community at large; they can now save more on buying Eskom electricity.*
- *It also gave me an overview of a joint project as I have been exposed in running a project which is only managed by RBED.*

- **Tell us about a time when you exceeded the requirements for a project, and the results thereof?**

- *The only time when I had to outdo my expectations was when I had to become a problem solver between local SMME and the service provider; which ended with a good attitude towards the completion of the project.*

- **What are some of the major challenges that you have encountered so far in your line of work?**

- *You will find people expecting things to be done their own way, whereas we are in corporate environment and have certain policies and procedures to adhere to.*
- *People who want to start their own businesses, but not having any ideas on what type of business to start with; but as a business adviser, you are expected to assist and hold the hands of these kind of people to at least expose them in to business thinking and feasibility study processes, so that they can start thinking on the type of business they want to venture into.*

- **What would your advice be to someone looking to follow in the same career path as you?**
 - *Firstly, I would say do something you are passionate about; ask yourself if there is a need for a solution that you would want to provide (which is assisting with small business development initiatives).*
 - *Small business development needs someone who is passionate as most of the times one will interact with entrepreneurs who know most of the industry insight.*

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

Desirable Attributes of a Project Manager – “Anticipation” (3 of 10)

Anticipation – the action of anticipating something; expectation or prediction.

As a project manager a keen sense of anticipation is essential for effective risk management. Effective risk management will in turn increase the probability of finishing your project within scope (right quality, on time and within budget. Thus, anticipation is essential to the success of your project.

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Web traffic on the Operations Room website:

Month	Site visits	% New visits	Average time on site	Average pages per visit
July 2014	2256 visits from 52 countries (1694 – SA; 139 – Netherlands; 134 – US) 1227 unique visitors	46.23%	00:02:59	2.22
June 2014	2163 visits from 52 countries (1609 – SA; 271 – Netherlands; 104 – US) 1165 unique visitors	46.32%	00:03:34	2.45
May 2014	2180 visits from 52 countries (1482 – SA; 338 – Netherlands; 133 – US) 1365 unique visitors	55.09%	00:02:31	2.07



BokgabaneQuiz:

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

1. When will the Bafokeng Plaza project be completed?
2. What is the name of the NGO that assisted to establish the Photsaneng bakery?
3. Which qualification did Ratanang obtain?

Congratulations to last month's sole winner:

- Ogodiseng Letlape

BOKGABANE:

Publication of the RBN OPMO

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