

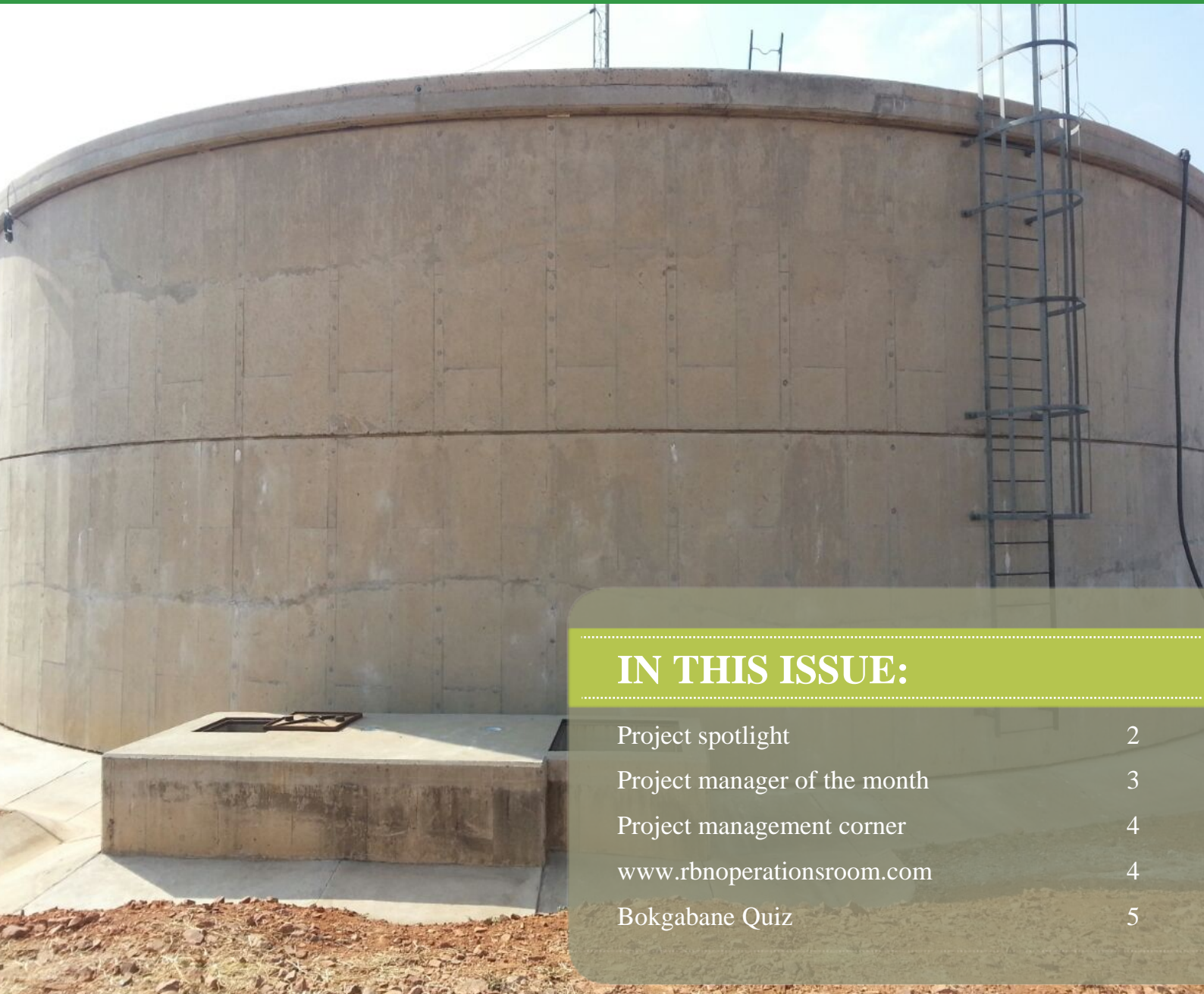
# bokgabane

*botoka le botoka – better and better*

From the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

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# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## FEATURED PROGRAMME

### Reservoir rehabilitation

**Project manager:** Sandra Kekae

Projects are initiated in response to some problem or in order to address a certain need. In some cases projects can give rise to other projects. In 2012 a project was undertaken by Infracore to clean all the RBN reservoirs and steel water tanks. Upon completion of the project, a close-out report was compiled by the service provider detailing faults and repairs that needed to be addressed urgently as they affected the water quality. Some of the findings included rusted ladders in reservoirs, rusted outlet pipes, missing manhole covers and dilapidated joint seals and bandages.



The Reservoir rehabilitation project was identified from this need that was presented in the aforementioned close-out report. The purpose of this project is to correct the faults that were identified in the close-out report and to increase the life span of the reservoirs located in Tlaseng, Marakana/Mosenthal, Mabitse and Tsitsing villages. The scope of the work includes reinstatement of pipe work where required, high pressure cleaning of walls, new joint walls and floors, installation of overflows; outlet grids; manhole covers and ladders.

To make the reservoir more durable, the service providers will be using a unique product to coat the concrete walls to protect them from wear and tear, as the aggressive water was also eating away at the concrete. The product is very durable and does not affect the water quality. They also intend on using 300mm bandage system on the joints as oppose to the 150mm bandages systems that were previously constructed. Steel manhole covers on the lower surfaces will be replaced by new fibreglass manhole covers that are less likely to be stolen as they do not have a high street value; the ones on top of the reservoirs will be replaced with stainless steel covers that do not rust. They also intend using fibreglass ladders inside the reservoir to avoid rusting. Other benefits aside from the infrastructural benefits include access to safer potable drinking water for community members and cost saving, as all reservoir cracks and joints will be resealed, thus preventing water loss through leaks.

In efforts to ensure that the project experiences minimal number of issues during execution, a number of risks were identified in the planning phase. Mismanagement of project funds is one of the major risks identified, as so called "scope creeps" often occur when consultants discover other defects or concerns that need to be attended after finalisation of the scope. These scope creeps will have to be managed to avoid over expenditure. Any suggested scope changes will have to be presented to the project manager for careful consideration.

Risk management does not absolve us from experiencing hiccups along the road. The baseline end date of the project was scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2014. The end date of the project has since been extended to the 31 of October 2014, as a result of the precast reservoirs that require much more work on the wall to fall joints. This only became evident after the team was able to perform a proper inspection after emptying the reservoirs.

The work done on these reservoirs is said to last the Royal Bafokeng Nation for the next ten to fifteen years before they can require further rehabilitation. By spending a little now, we save a lot more in the future.

## ➤ PROJECT MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Motlalepule Moroeng

- **Briefly discuss who you are, what do you do and when did you join RBA.**

- *I am a Clinical Psychologist by profession and I am currently rendering psychological services to the community and the RBA employees (Employee Assistance Programme) and manage the Mental Health unit. I started working in RBA in 2011.*



- **What are some of the challenges you have experienced as a project manager and how did you resolve them?**

- *Some of the challenges that I have experienced is that the community members are the custodians of the `project and they are not static but dynamic. One might realise that they are moving at a slow pace, but one has to keep in mind that as a project manager you need to move at the pace of the community.*

- **Since you work closely with the community, what is the key thing that you need to focus on when working with this particular stakeholder?**

- *When working with the community you have to focus on the following,*
  - *As an employee of RBA the community members are your main stakeholder and customer.*
  - *You have to understand and know the needs of the community in order for you to be able to address them.*

- **Do you find the OPMO system useful in managing your projects and programmes?**

- *The OPMO system is a very useful tool in managing and monitoring projects and programmes. It assists with the planning process to avoid unnecessary project failures.*

- **What tools do you suggest using to prevent your projects from failing?**

- *Always keep in touch with the OPMO to assist you in monitoring the progress of your projects and programmes by regularly updating the system.*

- **What advice can you give to other project managers on how to better manage their projects?**

- *Proper planning prevents poor performance, when projects are properly planned the outcome will be satisfactory.*

- Always update your projects and programmes in the OPMO system in order that you may have insight information about your project, and lastly be realistic about your objectives in order that your results may also be realistic.

## ➤ PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

### Desirable Attributes of a Project Manager – “Flexibility” (5 of 10)

Flexibility – ‘the quality of bending easily without breaking’; ‘the ability to be easily modified’; or ‘willingness to change or compromise’.

Issues are often encountered in any project. No matter how experienced a project manager might be, something eventually going wrong is inevitable. Therefore, effective project managers develop the ability to realize where they can and should compromise or change in order to deliver a quality product at the completion of the project.

## ➤ [www.rbnoperationsroom.com](http://www.rbnoperationsroom.com)

Web traffic on the Operations Room website:

Month	Site visits	% New visits	Average time on site	Average pages per visit
<b>September 2014</b>	1654 visits from 52 countries (1107 – SA; 357 – Netherlands; 55 – US) 1073 unique visitors	55.80%	00:02:54	2.25
<b>August 2014</b>	1879 visits from 52 countries (1291 – SA; 289 – Kenya; 95 – Netherlands) 1165 unique visitors	53.43%	00:02:50	2.20
<b>July 2014</b>	2256 visits from 52 countries (1694 – SA; 139 – Netherlands; 134 – US) 1227 unique visitors	46.23%	00:02:59	2.22



# BokgabaneQuiz:

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

1. Which service is Motlalepule offering to the RBA employees?
2. What are some of the faults and repairs that needed to be addresses urgently as they affected the water quality in the reservoirs?
3. What is one of the major risks identified in the reservoir rehabilitation project?

**BOKGABANE:**

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**Please send your answers, queries and/or comments on Bokgabane to the OPMO at [pmo@bafokeng.com](mailto:pmo@bafokeng.com)**