

# bokgabane

*botoka le botoka – better and better*

From the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

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## PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

### FEATURED PROJECT

#### Aged day Celebration 2014

**Project manager:** Mamakie Mothiba

The International day of older persons was observed for the first time on 1 October 1991. This day is celebrated in order to raise awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as senescence and elderly abuse. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. The Health and Social Development Service department of the RBN took it upon themselves to establish this day as a permanent fixture in the Bafokeng calendar.



This event took place on 31 October 2014. It was a day to unfold to the younger generation all the sacrifices that older persons underwent for the welfare of their children and the community at large. Older persons had, and still have, a great impact in society. In addition, it is hoped that the day will teach the younger generation to love, care for and respect older persons in the community.

All older persons from all regions within the Bafokeng nation were invited to celebrate this day together. There were various activities planned for the day, such as information sharing and time to socialise and laugh together. Various stakeholders such as representatives from the Department of Social Services, Rustenburg Local Municipality and various other organisations were invited to participate in the event.

The elderly were presented with small gifts as a sign of appreciation and were also screened by health professionals for ailments such as diabetes and hypertension. Finally a presentation on the challenges faced by older persons was facilitated where advice on how to deal with those challenges was given, as well as information on where to get assistance.

Some of the aged in our communities are still strong and participate in various activities such as the aged soccer team to encourage exercising and keeping healthy; some belong to NGOs who use their talents to earn an income and contribute to economic development in the RBN; others established and maintain vegetable gardens for food security; and others are in charge of granny-headed households. It is evident from the aforementioned that the elderly play an inadmissible role in the lives and functioning of their communities.

The largest risk associated with this project was the possible lack of stakeholder buy in—the possibility that attendance might be low. To mitigate this risk, the event was well marketed through Makgotlas, community mobilisation, word of mouth, posters, bulk SMSs and at various community gathering centres such as clinics.

The more than 800 individuals who attended the event seemed to thoroughly enjoy every moment. Many of the older persons who attended expressed their heart-felt appreciation and gratitude for, what they described as, a meaningful and important day. Virgilia Matebele of Women's Affairs and Social Action in Mozambique said, "It would be good for everyone to see that older people are the bridge between our past and our future. We need to care for them, love them, embrace them and respect them."

## PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Sonia Khunou

- **Tell us about the programmes that you are currently managing?**

- *I am currently managing four programmes within Tribal Police namely; Support of Protective services; Coordination of Safety and Security personnel development; Security logistics; and Tribal Police Fleet management. The programmes all fall under the support unit of the Tribal police and they provide services to other units.*

- **You have had to oversee other people's programmes in the past couple of months when the organization was going through some changes. What are some of the challenges that you faced?**

- *I did what I could to ensure that the programmes were well managed and achieved their strategic objectives as prescribed. Time management was a major challenge for me, as well as an Increase of responsibilities without any incentive.*

- **What are some of attributes that you believe a programme manager should have?**

- *Organizing;*
- *The ability to work in a team;*
- *Problem solving and leadership skills in order to be able to motivate others and allocate tasks; and*
- *The ability to monitor progress.*

- **What is the most significant programme that you have managed and why?**

- *I would say all are very important to me, but Support of Protective Services and Security logistics are up there, because they have operational support unit Key Performance Activities, where I have to ensure that our finances/budget is well managed. Furthermore, I need to ensure that Security staff members adhere to all procurement policies, and to maintain and oversee the central Logistics of the department.*

- **In your opinion, does programme management benefit the organization? And if so, how?**

- *Yes, the organization is able to track its record of deliverables or services rendered to the community through the system.*

- **Do you find the RBN OPS System user friendly?**

- *Yes it is, because I believe it is managed by a well capacitated team.*





## PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

### Desirable Attributes of a Project Manager – “Get things done” (6 of 10)

The ability to get things done speaks directly to the effectiveness of a project manager. This get it done attribute of a project manager is essential if a project manager is to deliver on time, within budget and within scope. Project managers who do not deliver regularly will not adhere to the pillars of project management and therefore be less effective as a project manager.

## [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>October 2014</b>	1751 visits from 54 countries (1237 – SA; 300 – Netherlands; 28 – US) 1077 unique visitors	52.77%	00:02:31	2.28
<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



## BokgabaneQuiz:

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

1. How many programmes does Sonia manager?
2. Name some of the stakeholders that were invited to attend the Aged day celebration?
3. How many people attended the event?

**Congratulations to last month's winner:**

- Lebogang Kgongwana

**BOKGABANE:**

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**Please send your answers, queries and/or comments on Bokgabane to the OPMO  
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