

bokgabane

botoka le botoka – better and better

From the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

January 2015

Issue 6 • Volume 1



IN THIS ISSUE:

Project spotlight	2
Project manager of the month	3
Project management corner	4
www.rbnoperationsroom.com	4
Bokgabane Quiz	5

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED PROJECT

Food Bank Project

Project manager: Mamakie Mothiba

One third of all food produced in South Africa goes to waste, while more than 11 million hungry people are living without the fundamental security of regular meals. Food Bank South Africa is a leading large scale co-ordinated effort to establish so-called Food Banks in communities with the highest concentration of food-insecure people.



The Food Bank procures or receives food from various sources, such as donors, manufacturers, producers, government agencies, individuals and more. The food bank then stores the food and distributes it to the community when there is a need to do so.

HSDS identified the need to establish a similar concept in RBN, where food will be stored for emergencies, in order to reduce the effects of poverty and, at the same time, create jobs for unemployed RBN community members. To this end, the Food Bank project was initiated in the beginning of 2014. However, due to lack of funding, the execution of the Food Bank project was placed on hold as external funders had to be approached to assist with funding the project.

Then, in June 2014, the National Department of Social Development invited interested Non Profit Organisations from all the nine provinces in South Africa to deliver Household Food and Nutrition Security Services for a period of 12 months in the Northwest province. Motswedi wa Sechaba, an RBN non-profit company that HSDS operates in, participated in the tendering process and was ultimately awarded the tender.

The contract will run for a period of 12 months with possible extension; depending on the success of HSDS in the execution of this venture. This initiative will create at least eight employment opportunities in the RBN as there will be a need to appoint people to operate the centre. The government's provincial food distribution tender effectively provided the funding to realise the Food Bank initiative that was initiated by HSDS.



The project will be officially launched in early 2015. The launch is being organised by HSDS together with the Northwest Department of Social Development. Many representatives from other government departments have been invited to attend the launch.

The launch potentially marks the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership between HSDS and the Department of Social Development.

PROJECT MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Tshepiso Legari

- **What is your current position in the organization?**
 - *I am the Acting manager of the Information and Technology department as of the beginning of September 2014.*
- **You have had to take over several projects that were initiated by other employees; what were some of the challenges?**
 - *The organization recently went through a Repositioning process; as a result, certain personnel left the organization. Some individuals left the organization not having done proper handovers on projects, programmes and other business related information. That was the most challenging part; having to take over several projects and programmes without a proper handover—I had to familiarise myself with the projects and get as much information on them as I could from other sources internally and from other stakeholders.*
- **Can you provide a brief description of the programme that you're currently managing?**
 - *I oversee two programmes, namely, the Help desk programme and the Management and maintenance of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems. The Helpdesk programme deals with employees issues relating to ICT functions such as voice, internet and computer issues. The ERP programme supports finance and procurement departments in performing their services. An additional programme that I am managing is the ICT Programme which deals with the entire ICT infrastructure. Managing all the data centers in the organization in order to ensure that all servers are up and employees receive uninterrupted services; such as voice and internet.*
- **In your opinion, how do the programmes benefit the organization and community?**
 - *At this point, the community benefits indirectly, as the support services rendered by ICT enables the various departments in the organization to render services to the community. ICT services enable the departments to perform their functions more efficiently, and it increases communication and productivity. What the ICT department is working on now is to build a well-founded network infrastructure before deploying services to the community.*
- **What are the priority projects for your department in 2015?**
 - *The main focus for next year is to implement internet and voices services in a minimum of ten RBN schools with no internet services, based on the recommendation of RBI and the assessment of our network infrastructure. As well as installing a single Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system in all RBN Institutions, to move away from the multiple ERP system that are currently being used across the organization.*



PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

Desirable Attributes of a Project Manager – “Understanding the Environment” (8 of 10)

Project management is applied on projects to optimize efficiency and effectiveness. Efficiency looks at maximizing output for a given level of input, and effectiveness means achieving the goals or objectives; both are goal-orientated practices related to achieving success.

Colloquially, efficiency is widely known as doing things right, and efficiency as doing the right things.

Knowledge and understanding of the environment within which one is executing a project is thus essential for effective operations in project management.

www.rbnoperationsroom.com

Web traffic on the Operations Room website:

Month	Site visits	% New visits	Average time on site	Average pages per visit
December 2014	1122 visits from 54 countries (719 – SA; 108 – Bangladesh; 43 – US) 744 unique visitors	54.6%	00:02:41	2.32
November 2014	1615 visits from 54 countries (1113 – SA; 65 – US; 44 – Netherlands) 941 unique visitors	49.6%	00:03:52	2.85
October 2014	1751 visits from 54 countries (1237 – SA; 300 – Netherlands; 28 – US) 1077 unique visitors	52.77%	00:02:31	2.28



BokgabaneQuiz:

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

1. What is the name of the department that awarded HSDS the tender to deliver Household Food and Nutrition Services?
2. What is the estimated number of jobs that will be created from the Food bank initiative?
3. How many schools does IT plan on implementing internet and voice service at, in 2015?

BOKGABANE:

Publication of the RBN OPMO

EDITOR

Jean Slabbert

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR & PUBLISHER

Jean Slabbert

FLOATING PRODUCTION MANAGER

Rorisang Mathuloe and Ororiseng Mapeka

SUB-EDITOR

Jean Slabbert

COMPILER

Rorisang Mathuloe

THIS MONTH'S CORRESPONDENTS

Tshepiso Legari, Mamakie Mothiba

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