

bokgabane

botoka le botoka – better and better

From the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED PROJECT

Bafokeng Network Spine

Project manager: Dawn Phetoane

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) plays an ever increasing role in business, public service delivery and education. ICT is central to information processing and availability, to improving service provision and office administration. It is also vital to office telephony, small business administration and to education administration and delivery.

In an effort to integrate community services, business functions and academic institutions throughout the Bafokeng communities, the Central Administration ICT department has embarked upon the Bafokeng Network Spine project.

The Spine is a network “backbone”, made up of wired, fibre-optic, wireless and management components. This Spine will cover the Bafokeng nation with a high-speed, high-availability core network. Hanging off the Spine, imitating ribs attached to vertebrae, will be dedicated links to all RBN business institutions, schools, clinics and community centres. This will give these institutions not only reliable access to the internet, but connection to the Central Administration telephony system; connecting them to the Civic Centre switchboard.

The RBN schools are currently without internet connectivity and do not have efficient telecommunication services. Many have no telephones whatsoever. This severely hampers RBI initiatives such as distance learning, Blackboard and possible data-rich learning tools; features that will become a possibility through the Bafokeng Network Spine project.

The scope of the project includes the revamping and erecting of new “high” sites and the provisioning of cost effective services on voice and data to RBN regions. The Spine will also assist in the distribution of applications or software programmes to various RBN institutions and schools.

Some of the risks that have been identified by the ICT department include the possibility of delays in the arrival of equipment, as most of the equipment is sourced from abroad. To mitigate this risk the Project Manager will need to order the equipment weeks ahead of implementation. Another challenge is selecting the right, robust equipment within the IT industry that will serve the Nation for years to come at a reasonable cost. On-going research is being conducted and various service providers are being interviewed, which will assist in selecting the wireless technology that is most suitable for this purpose.

The project is currently in its Execution Phase. The development of a network design document has been completed. This document includes an analysis of the current network infrastructure and outlines the aerial coverage. Theft of a solar power system installed at the new high site in Bleskop has prompted the Project Manager to work on improving security around the area and explore other ways of supplying power to the site.

The first phase of the project is well within schedule and is expected to be completed on the 22nd of November 2013. One local SMME has been identified to provide services, as local SMMEs with the skills necessary to assist with the development of the Network Spine are scarce. Upon completion of the project the Central Administration ICT department will have imparted skills to the local SMMEs that will be sub-contracted.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED PROJECT

Mother Baby Friendly Initiative (MBFI)

Project manager: Mshiyi Mapimele

The Baby-Friendly Initiative was launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF in 1991. It is a global effort to implement practices that protect, promote and support breastfeeding. The initiative's objectives are to enable mothers to make an informed choice about how to feed their newborns; to support early initiation of breastfeeding; to promote exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months; to ensure the cessation of free and low cost infant formula supply to hospitals; and to include, possibly at a later stage and where needed, other mother and infant health care issues.



It aims to improve the care of pregnant women, mothers and newborns at health facilities that provide maternity services. It will also promote the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding in accordance with the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

Through the support of the Royal Bafokeng Health and Social Development Services (HSDS), the roll out of this initiative to the first of the RBN clinics has commenced. Once the initiative is successfully implemented in this clinic, the project will be rolled out to the remaining five RBN clinics. HSDS hopes to educate or inform all RBN mothers and pregnant women about the importance and the health benefits of breastfeeding.

The first step in the project plan was to establish the MBFI committee and train health care personnel on how to implement the policies for MBFI. A breastfeeding support group was also formed and trained, which is made up of health care personnel and home based carers. It is expected that the health care personnel ensure that the MBFI policy is available at all clinics in languages understood by patients and staff and posted or displayed in areas where mothers and babies are cared for.

The MBFI policy covers 10 steps to successful breastfeeding. Again it includes an institutional ban on acceptance of free or low cost supplies of breast milk substitutes, bottles and teats and their distribution to mothers and it also gives the framework for assisting HIV positive mothers to make informed infant feeding decisions that meet their individual circumstances.

The benefits of executing this project in the RBN is clear, as research has shown that breastfed babies are less likely to suffer from serious illnesses such as gastroenteritis, asthma, eczema and respiratory and ear infections; that adults who were breastfed as babies are less likely to develop risk factors for heart diseases, such as obesity and high blood pressure; and women who breastfeed have a lower risk of developing breast cancer, ovarian cancer and hip fractures later in life.

The introduction of this initiative in Bafokeng health centre in Phokeng started in January 2012 and is due to be completed in July 2013. The project to roll out the initiative to the remaining five health facilities in the RBN will commence shortly thereafter. The implementation hereof to all RBN health facilities could, according to the WHO, contribute to avoiding many child deaths in the Bafokeng community.

PROGRAMME MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Mmakgotha Rakuba

- **What is your role at Lebone II College?**
 - Assistant to the Deputy Headmasters – Rre Thebe Morake, Rre Murray Thomas and Rre David Du Toit.
- **What interests you about this job?**
 - Meeting new people, learning organisational skills and interacting with the students.
- **In your opinion what sets you apart from other employees in the organisation?**
 - Willingness to learn and adapt to situations.
- **You're in charge of managing the RBN Events Calendar at Lebone II College; do you think it adds value to the governance of the organisation as a whole?**
 - I think the calendar helps in integrating Lebone II College with the rest of the Bafokeng institutions and thus contributing to a focused cause – "Serving the Bafokeng people".
- **Have you put systems in place to assist you in managing the Events Calendar?**
 - We ensure that all the dates are sent to us before the year ends and update accordingly. Once the dates are in, it's really a matter of adding in data here and there and changes that sometimes occur.
- **What challenges have you experienced in terms of compliance or co-operation from other staff members?**
 - None.
- **What advice would you like to give to other administrators in terms of time management and managing the Events Calendar?**
 - Each of us plays a vital role in building a sustainable Bafokeng Nation. No one is an island thus we need to work together.



PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

What is the "role of a Project Manager"?

A project manager is the person who has the overall responsibility for the successful planning and execution of a project. He or she must have a combination of skills including an ability to ask penetrating questions, detect unstated assumptions and resolve conflicts, as well as more general management skills.

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Web traffic on the Operations Room website:

Month	Site visits	% New visits	Average time on site	Average pages per visit
January 2013	1758 visits from 51 countries (1283 – SA; 40 – US; 20 – UK) 842 unique visitors	41.13%	00:05:11	2.87
December 2012	1145 visits from 42 countries (834 – SA; 25 – US; 10 – India) 523 unique visitors	35.02%	00:04:34	2.67
November 2012	1951 visits from 51 countries (1567 – SA; 61 – US; 16 – Germany) 806 unique visitors	33.83%	00:04:59	2.83

BokgabaneQuiz:

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

1. How many local SMME's have been identified as service providers in the Wireless network spine project?
2. What are some of the health benefits of breastfeeding babies?
3. How many unique visitors did rbnoperationsroom.com have in January?

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

Congratulations to:

1. Millicent Mosue
2. Cornelius Ramosotho
3. Tshegofatso Montsho

BOKGABANE:

Publication of the RBN OPMO

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Dawn Phetoane, Mshiyi Mpimili and Mmakgotha Rakuba.

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