

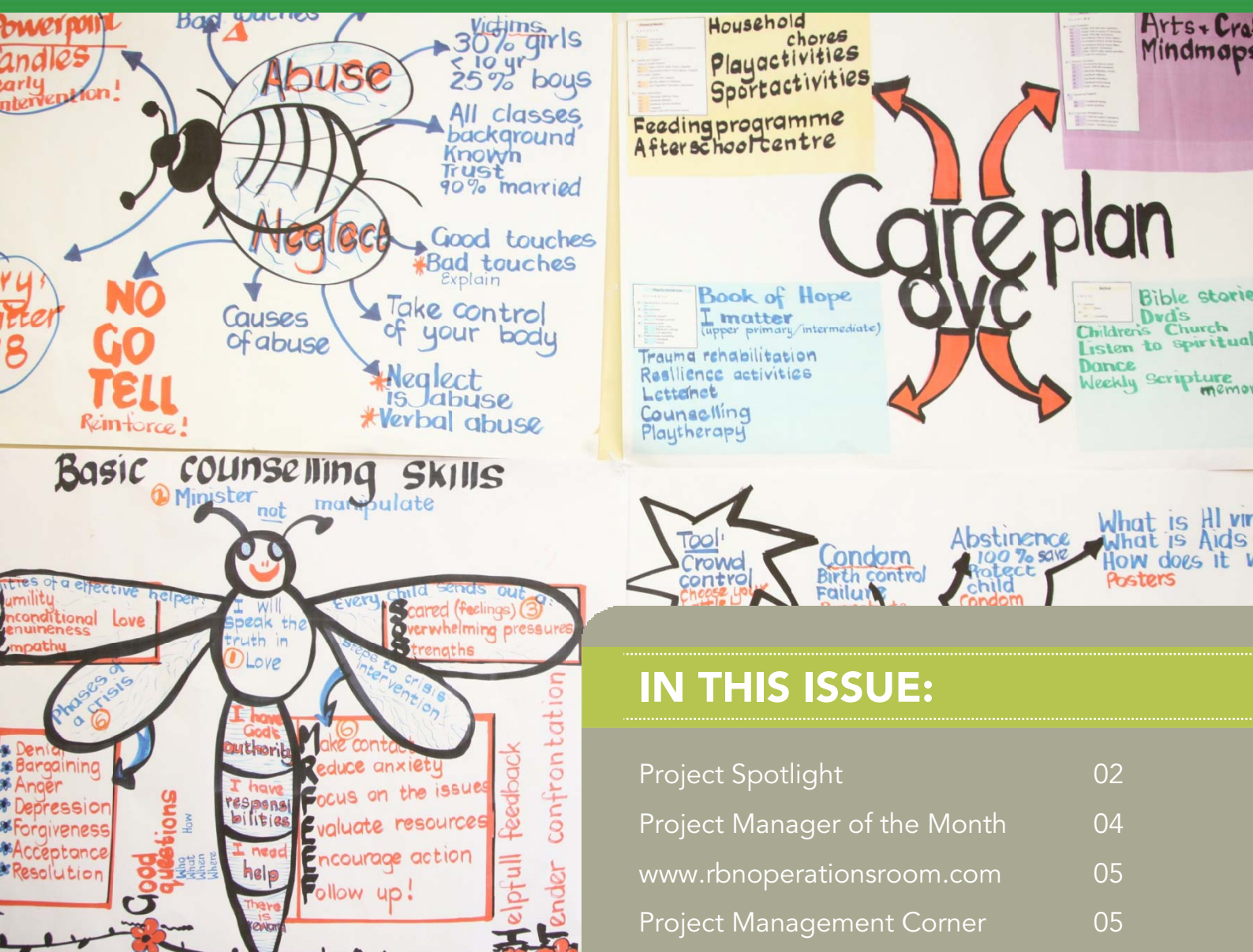
bokgabane

botoka le botoka – better and better

from the Royal Bafokeng Operations Room

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PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

FEATURED PROJECT

The Platinum Club

Project manager: Thandeka Cwati

In an economy marked with high levels of unemployment, uneven income distribution and general economic uncertainty, it is essential for small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) to become sustainable and for governing bodies and private institutions to assist, coach and mentor to nurture sustainability.



The Royal Bafokeng Enterprise Development (RBED) is a RBN entity that is assigned to act as a business development agency for RBN SMMEs. RBED offers entrepreneurs coaching, advice, training and assistance to entrepreneurs by facilitating access to markets and by providing various financing opportunities.

In 2008, RBED registered the Platinum Club project—a forum of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) who have earned their stripes in terms of running businesses and that have proven themselves in terms of adherence to basic requirements of corporate governance. These businesses are also in good standing regarding the regulatory and legislative requirements of running a legitimate business.

Membership to the Platinum Club is earned through excellence in how entrepreneurs operate their businesses. It is essentially a forum of ambitious and hardworking business people. Potential applicants must be from the Royal Bafokeng business community and personify excellence and achievement in business and entrepreneurship. Members must also be willing to share their experiences and insight with businesses and entrepreneurs outside of the Platinum Club in order that they too may succeed and ultimately join our elite organisation.

Members of the club are publicly celebrated as achievers and major contributors to the Royal Bafokeng business community. In addition, they are informed of (and receive access to) exclusive business-related lectures, seminars and networking events. As one member of the club recently uttered: *“The club is a great opportunity for sharing ideas on issues of self development and alerting one another on opportunities that exist in the area; it will also be used as a platform to promote entrepreneurship among the youth, as well as reach out to SMMEs who are not part of the club through workshops and seminars”.*

Platinum Club activities include strategy board meetings, networking events and award ceremonies, all aimed at continually celebrating entrepreneurship, business development and achievement.

Currently the Platinum club is in a pilot phase where systems and activities are implemented. Pending the envisioned success of the pilot project, RBED will roll out the club as an ongoing programme in 2012.

FEATURED PROGRAMME

Godisanang Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Programme

Program manager: Gladys Pikanisi

"The prejudice surrounding AIDS exacts a social death which precedes the actual physical one." – Tom Hanks

The scourge of HIV presents a multitude of challenges including rendering a lot of young children orphaned, who have to fend for themselves. Victims of HIV, whether infected or family of the infected, are generally stigmatized and plunged into economic crisis.

In South Africa, the Nelson Mandela/HSRC study of HIV/AIDS (2002) found that 13% of children aged 2-14 years had lost a mother, a father or both. The report continued that 3% of households are classified as child-headed, as they are headed by a person between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age. In addition, many families are headed by a grandparent, a relative or an ill parent. As a result, orphans are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation and are considered more likely to engage in unsafe behaviour, increasing the risk of HIV infection and other related diseases.

In response to the deepening crisis, the department of Health and Social Development Services (HSDS) within the Royal Bafokeng Nation and an NGO, Godisanang, combined their efforts to give rise to the Godisanang Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme. This programme is currently funded by Royal Bafokeng Holdings (RBH) and the Impala Bafokeng Trust and aims to effectively deal with the problem by employing a holistic approach to orphan care. Specifically it strives to strengthen communities in order to meet the needs of these orphans, support community-based responses, help adolescents meet their own needs, and create a supportive social environment. Activities undertaken include the training of caregivers, increasing access to education, economic support, targeted food and nutrition support, legal aid, medical care, psychosocial or emotional care and other social support. As former South African president Nelson Mandela stated *"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way it treats its children"*.



The programme was piloted in Macharora village and, subsequent to its proven success, rolled out to the Capital and North regions. Apart from these villages, the benefits of this programme are extended to the communities throughout Bojanala district. The Royal Bafokeng HSDS department regularly visits the programme centres and ensures that the needs of the children are met.

PROJECT MANAGER OF THE MONTH: Patience Sikwane



- **What is your key role in the Royal Bafokeng Administration (RBA)?**
 - *I started in Royal Bafokeng in 2008, as a corporate investment coordinator with RBH. I have since moved and joined Public Affairs, Community Relations unit, which is responsible for amongst others, stakeholder relations management, which is basically communication with and from Morafe. The NGO capacity building project is a partnership between RBH and HSDS, and Siyakhula trust was appointed as service provider for training of the NGOs. My role in this project is to oversee all aspects of the NGO capacity building project, using planning, monitoring and controlling processes, to coordinate all the logistics, budget for other items which were not included as part of the contract, to manage the service providers and ensure that they do what we agreed on as part of the service level agreement.*
- **What skills do you possess that you believe set you apart as a project manager?**
 - *Well, it is not an easy one, but I guess I do have good communication skills and have a special force of persuasion. I am also a good organizer.*
- **What do you regard as the most important thing in Project Management?**
 - *Every aspect of project management is important, but the most important is to work within the time lines and adhere to the budget. Budget planning is important to ensure there were no excessive cost variances. One needs to have the skill of estimating and to be able to establish what has actually happened as opposed to what was planned and to forecast the expected final costs.*
- **Explain in your own words why project management is so important in implementing change in the RBN?**
 - *I do not know about implementing change, but it certainly changes the way that we approach our day to day work, in that tasks are broken down into activities and it improves on the amount of time taken to do the work, you align more to the budget and it also improves productivity. All in all, it promotes a productive project culture and encourages teamwork amongst employees at all levels.*
- **What are some of the challenges you have experienced as a project manager?**
 - *Mostly project related challenges, like non-attendance and drop outs from training which were brought about by external factors, but they are resolved and I am looking for new challenges as the project progresses.*
- **Have the PMO's project management workshops helped you in managing your projects?**
 - *Yes, and I think it will be of value if everyone within the organization attends the workshops, as it will help everyone understand the culture and values that makes RBA.*
- **Do you have any words of advice for other projects managers?**
 - *Project management is totally different from what it was even 10 years ago. The struggle to stay abreast of new and rapidly evolving technologies, to cope with people issues has become a treadmill race as organizations work hard just to stay in place. A key goal of disciplined project managers is to avoid the surprises that can occur because these surprises almost always lead to bad news: canceled projects, late delivery, cost overruns, dissatisfied customers, outsourcing, termination, and unemployment.*



Web traffic on the Operations Room website:

Month	Site visits	% New visits	Average time on site	Average pages per visit
August 2011	2364 visits from 56 countries (2123 – SA; 27 – UK; 28 – US) 902 unique visits	29.27%	00:04:20	3.08
July 2011	2972 visits from 35 countries (2709 – SA; 37 – US; 35 – UK) 888 unique visits	31.27%	00:03:54	3.10
June 2011	1833 visits from 47 countries (1621 – SA; 35 – UK; 27 – US) 688 unique visits	29.35%	00:04:08	3.33

PROJECT MANAGEMENT CORNER:

Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder analysis in project management is the process of identifying the individuals or groups that are likely to affect or be affected by a proposed action, and sorting them according to their impact on the action and the impact the action will have on them. This information is used to assess how the interests of those stakeholders should be addressed in a project plan, policy, program, or other action. Stakeholder analysis is a key part of stakeholder management.

The PMO proudly launched a Stakeholder Analysis section to the www.rbnoperationsroom.com website at the end of June. It is hoped that this feature will assist project and programme managers to improve communication and service delivery to all identified stakeholders.

Bokgabane Quiz:

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

1. What are the criteria for being included into the Platinum Club?
2. What percentage of households in South Africa are classified as child-headed?
3. In which year did Patience start working for Royal Bafokeng?

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

Congratulations to:

1. Tebogo Nke
2. Goitseone Loeto
3. Moses Maithufi

BOKGABANE:

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THIS MONTH'S CORRESPONDENTS

Patience Sikwane, Gladys Pikanisi & Thandeka Cwati

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