



KINGDOM

SINCE 1450

# **RBN REVIEW**

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*HM KGOSI: LERUO MOLOTLEGI*



# Returning to the Bafokeng Way

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**Delivered by *Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi***  
on the occasion of the Opening of Supreme Council  
Royal Bafokeng Nation, 16 February 2012

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# Introduction

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Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has become a tradition in our community to set aside time at the beginning of each year to take stock of where we are as an organization, as a community, and as a nation. By honestly assessing our progress towards our goals, and in some cases even revisiting the appropriateness of those goals, we begin our work with clarity, purpose, and determination. We know what is required of us, and why our work makes a difference, not only locally, but in ever expanding waves of impact. We call this the RBN Review, and I would like to welcome you all as partners in our overall enterprise.



# Returning to the Bafokeng Way

The theme “Returning to the Bafokeng Way” is not a nostalgic side note meant to enhance our vision of the future through some superficial nod to the past. There is much in our culture and history that can ground us in our unique identity and support us as we embrace the changes of tomorrow. When I speak of “culture,” I mean everything from the values and principles that govern social life, to the special rituals that mark life’s most important milestones, including birth, death, and marriage. I mean the unique ways in which we dress, speak, build, and celebrate. I mean our traditional arts, customary laws, and indigenous knowledge. All those things that make us who we are.

Many of us have discarded the wisdom that is embedded in our traditions and cultural practices. For some reason, we believe that in order to be taken seriously as professionals, we must

let go of the old-fashioned ways of our grandparents, and adopt the styles and practices of those in positions of power and influence. I wish to state categorically that there is nothing to be gained by a wholesale abandonment of our heritage in the interest of succeeding in the contemporary world.

Our visions and plans for a sustainable and prosperous future, characterized by excellence and world class standards, lose nothing, and in fact gain much, by reflecting on who we are, and what path we took to get here.

We must take every opportunity to learn as much as we can about how our forebears lived, what they believed in, how they organised their societies, and what they valued. Only then can we say we are part of the continuum of Bafokeng history, and choose those facets of our culture that we wish to actively promote





and adapt to our current circumstances. One example is *lebollo*, the initiation schools that prepared young men and women for adulthood (also known as *bogwera* and *bojale*).

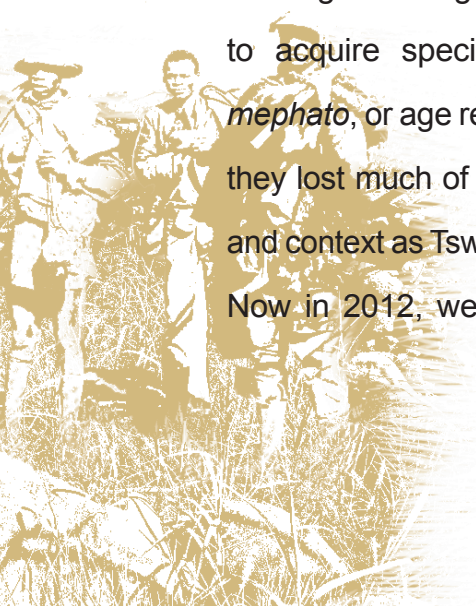
These schools were opportunities for adults to pass wisdom and knowledge down to a new generation and to impart knowledge about politics and community organization, family life and responsibilities, and values such as bravery, loyalty, and self respect.

These schools were considered anathema to Christianity, and were replaced by confirmation classes in Phokeng from the late 19th century. Although the graduates continued to acquire special names, like the *mephato*, or age regiments, of the past, they lost much of their original content and context as Tswana rites of passage. Now in 2012, we find ourselves in a

situation where young people need to make important decisions about their education and careers, their health, and their relationships. We have formal processes for inducting new people into organizations, but we have forgotten how to induct our youth into adulthood in a meaningful way.

Similarly, the institution of *diphiri*, commonly understood as grave diggers, but actually comprised of all men in the community between the ages of 18 and 65, used to have an important role and responsibility to play in society. In particular, *diphiri* served as a check on the authority of hereditary leaders.

We will revisit this institution to determine how it can play a constructive role today. Other traditional practices that I hope to revive, or at least examine, include *lefulo*, which literally means “foam,” as in the froth that builds up on a pot

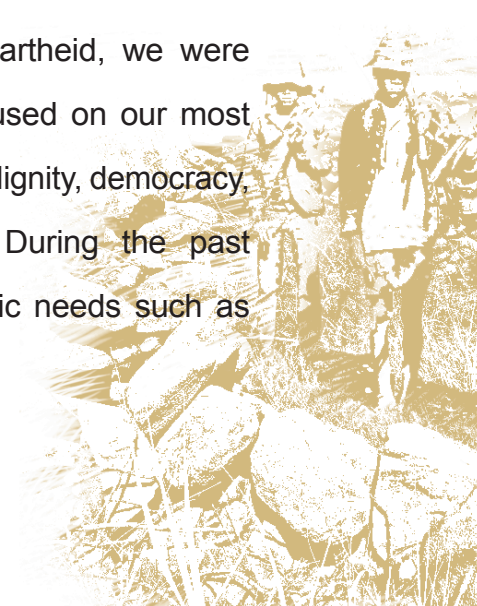


of traditional beer. In our culture, this foam represents the interdependence of families on their communities and *makgotla* structures. When a wedding or a funeral takes place, a portion of the food and drink being prepared is taken to the local headman, or *kgosana*, as a sign of respect.

Knowing the rank and relationships between different wards, some more senior, some more junior; knowing which customary laws govern the allocation of land; understanding the rights and duties of ordinary people in light of the rights and duties of their leaders are all part of establishing and maintaining a peaceful and prosperous society. Traditionally, our cultural practices reinforced our interdependencies. They helped us to resolve conflicts. They clarified our rights and responsibilities. Contrast this with today's society, where disrespect and disregard are rampant, where

lawlessness has replaced duty and even the simplest gesture of greeting another person has become a symbol of backwardness. I'm not suggesting that every traditional practice should feature in our contemporary world, but I am calling on all of us to reach back into our roots for a deeper and clearer sense of the values and principles that guided our forebears. For my part, I will undertake to preserve, promote, and adapt those aspects of our heritage that are fundamental to our identity as Bafokeng, and that can play a positive role in helping us reach our goals.

In addition to our culture, our history is something we have badly neglected over the years. In the context of the struggle against apartheid, we were understandably focused on our most fundamental rights: dignity, democracy, and development. During the past decade or two, basic needs such as





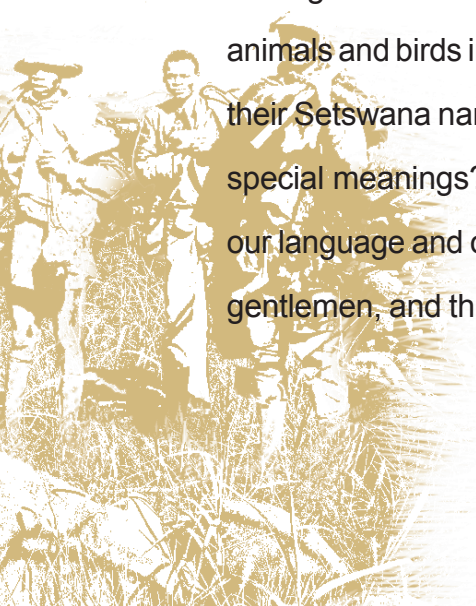
water, electricity, food and healthcare have occupied us. But our history also needs to be tended like a garden if it is going to endure and continue to nourish our spirits and imaginations. Preserving the memories of our elders, documenting and commemorating the lives of those who sacrificed for us, and remembering the seminal events that have shaped our path are important priorities.

How many of our children know about the innovations that Kgosi Mokgatle introduced into Bafokeng society in the 19th century? How many of us can describe the steps our leaders took to secure our mineral rights? Who amongst us can identify the plants, animals and birds in our surroundings by their Setswana names and explain their special meanings? We have neglected our language and our history, ladies and gentlemen, and this is going to change.

We have begun several initiatives to restore our history and culture, and we will be rolling out several more. The two books on Bafokeng history published last year now have their place in every school in our community.

The Bafokeng Digital Archive, which goes live on our website today, contains a treasure trove of unique and original photos, documents, videos, and newspaper clippings that tell our story, going back almost a century. Some years back I spoke about a Bafokeng cultural repository where our original songs, poems, stories, designs, recipes, and other forms of cultural production would be archived.

That repository has been created, and it is now up to you to populate it with your creations. Not only will we research and celebrate our traditional clothing, crafts, music, architecture, and food



and drink, but we will erect monuments to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the development of this community. Regiments of men who walked to Kimberley to mine diamonds. The founding families who offered cattle and worked on nearby farms to help Kgosi Mokgatle buy the land. The men and women who defied the apartheid and homeland authorities and sacrificed for the larger goal of freedom from oppression and racism. We will remember and recognize these contributions by erecting monuments (as envisioned in the Masterplan), passing down stories, and commemorating special days in our calendar, including awards for those in the community who demonstrate excellence in traditional pursuits, and in particular those who help build Setswana as the language of our ancestors and of our grandchildren. In the immediate future, I will commission a Bafokeng anthem and a Bafokeng

pledge, words and melody that capture the vision of our forefathers as well as the dreams of our children, a song that we can sing with pride and reverence to renew our commitment to our land and our community. In the medium term, we will establish an institute for the study of Tswana language and culture, to nurture and preserve the gifts we inherited from our ancestors.

The past is a font of inspiration, for those who choose to drink from it. Even as we extend the reach of our ideas and accomplishments onto the world stage, there will always be a place for our past and our time-honored ways. In fact without these things, our prosperity is hollow and soulless.



# The Big Picture

Just as it is important for us to know and cherish our own past, so it is crucial that we understand the world around us, and especially those events and issues that shape the world in which we live.

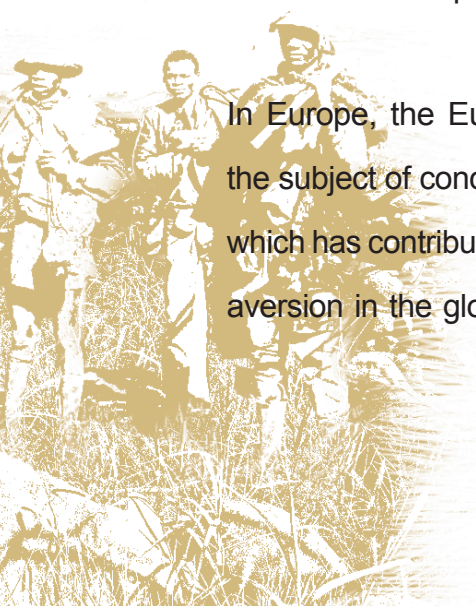
The global economy continues its slow recovery. Rising food and commodity prices make this a particularly tough time for poor households. High unemployment rates persist, even in many developing countries, but very few as high as South Africa's 24%. Fuel price fluctuations hurt economies everywhere, but if the price of oil goes below \$90/barrel, oil dependant economies will be severely stressed. The difficult decisions being taken by the Nigerian government are, on some level, indicative of this phenomenon.

In Europe, the Euro as a currency is the subject of concern and speculation, which has contributed to a climate of risk aversion in the global financial sphere.

The crisis around Greek sovereign debt, and its possible contagious effects, has kept discussions about a Eurozone breakup alive, which has impacted emerging economies as well.

Austerity measures, the gloomy financial outlook, fiscal pressure from ageing populations and the perception that pro-immigration policies are threatening white Europeans may have contributed to the recent rise of right-wing politics in Europe, demonstrated vividly by the Norwegian domestic terrorist who killed 77 people last July. As South Africans, we know only too well the delicate balance between celebrating symbolic national identities, and descending into violent ethno-nationalism and group-scapegoating.

Meanwhile, China continues to serve not only as the world's factory, dominating global manufacturing, but also as its



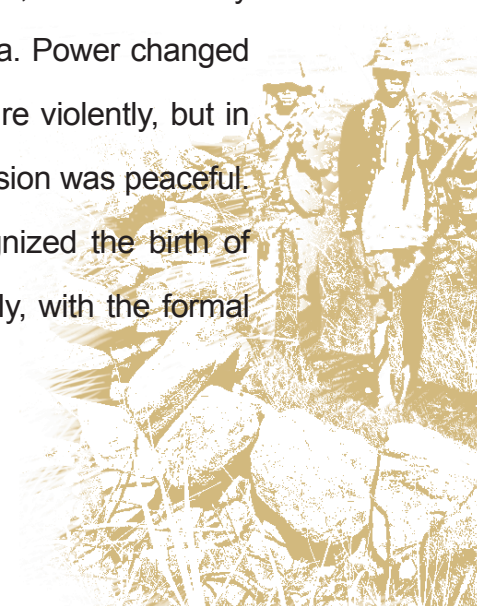
economic engine, serving as its greatest consumer of resources. The USA, the world's largest economy, accuses China of improperly deflating its currency, making it hard for the US to export goods to China. Given that China's growth rate has slowed down significantly, anything below 8% will impact on its ability to sustain its internal economic momentum and the ripple effects around the world will be substantial. We should pay careful attention to these trends.

China's neighbour, North Korea is another country whose events we need to monitor. Upon the death of the country's leader Kim Jong Il last December, his son Kim Jong Un was announced as the new leader of the last Stalinist state on earth. The elder Kim earned his reputation and respect as a hard-line military man. If history bears out, his son will need to earn his stripes by being equally draconian with regard

to his neighbors and even his own people. The stability of an economically important region will likely be affected.

Here on the African continent, we witnessed several shifts in power over the past 12 months, with the Arab Spring still sweeping through North Africa for much of the year.

Even south of the Sahara we saw several pro-democracy protests flaring-up. 2011 began with Zine el Abine Ben Ali taking flight from Tunisia; and continued as Hosni Mubarak was ousted from Egypt, but wasn't over until Moammar Ghaddafi – after eventually turning his guns on his own people – was forcibly removed from power, and ultimately assassinated in Libya. Power changed hands in Cote D'Ivoire violently, but in Zambia the transmission was peaceful. The continent recognized the birth of a new country in July, with the formal



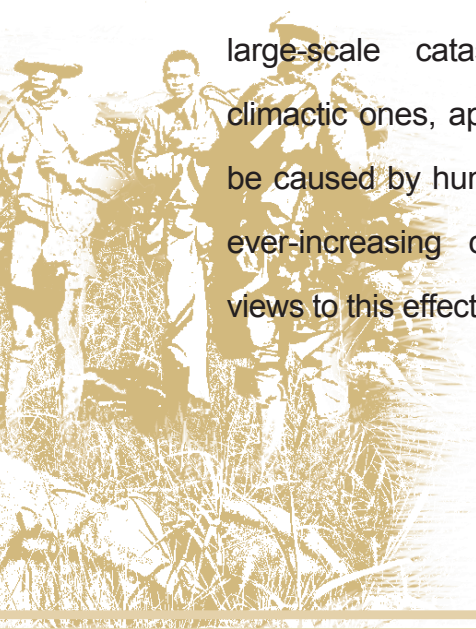


arrival of the Republic of South Sudan. Many challenges continue to face the continent, including protracted conflict in the DRC and the Horn, religious violence and terrorist agendas in Nigeria and Somalia, and political uncertainty in Zimbabwe.

South Africa recently hosted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban (COP 17). The convention's aim, of "stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous man-made interference with the climate system", is becoming critical. Tragedies, such as the terrible earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand, are natural disasters. But several large-scale catastrophes, including climactic ones, appear increasingly to be caused by human actions, with an ever-increasing chorus of scientific views to this effect. The irony is that the

'rich' nations, the ones causing most industrial atmospheric waste, will not suffer the most from disruptive climate change. Merely 3% of the world's carbon emissions emanate from the African continent. Environmental summits like these can only be considered successful when they result in tangible action by industrialised nations to reduce emissions and reverse the current trends.

Last year also saw the global population, according to the UN, cross the 7 billion mark. The number of people on earth has more than doubled in the last 50 years. This implies the increasing need for proper planning for food and water security, as it does for equipping our youth to make peace with the idea of an ever-crowded global community. Locally, 2011 will also stand as the year that the Bafokeng Administration completed the first head count of people living on RBN-owned land.



# Understanding our present

Our Population and Use of Land Audit (PULA) revealed a great deal of information about the present-day Bafokeng Nation, and what our needs are in the immediate future.

Although we cannot say for sure how many Bafokeng there are worldwide, as so many of us have migrated to cities and even overseas, we do know that approximately 150,000 people currently live on our land. Our most populous village is Phokeng with 22,200 people, and our most populous region is the North region, with 37,500 people. Two thirds of us consider ourselves Bafokeng, and 75% of us speak Setswana as our home language.

This, together with all the other information contained in the PULA report, helps us to understand the makeup of our community, what our greatest challenges are, as well as

giving us a benchmark for change when we repeat the exercise in three years' time.

Poverty, unemployment, sanitation, HIV and hypertension, domestic abuse, food insecurity and money circulation are some of the areas of concern that emerge from the research, and each one of these will receive attention in our planning and budgeting.

The other thing that affects nearly every facet of our life is the large proportion of people in our community who have migrated to the region from other parts of South Africa and Africa. The workers and their families who live on our land play a key role in our local economy, but they live in circumstances even more challenging than those faced by Bafokeng. These challenges must be addressed.





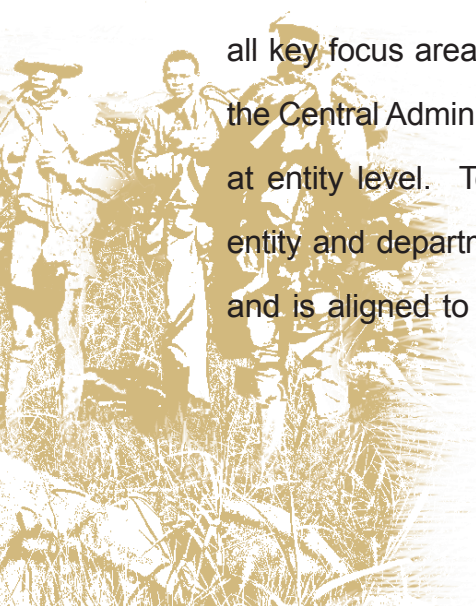
# Governance and leadership

Building institutions that can effectively respond to the needs of our community is one of our highest priorities. The recently completed restructuring process in the administration was aimed at exactly that: making our institutions work to the highest standards in a cost efficient way in the best interests of the community we serve.

The Royal Bafokeng Administration has been unbundled into its core component units, and as a result, security, infrastructure and health services are now independent entities. What remains of the RBA will now be called the Central Administration, and will primarily provide oversight and centralised services for all RBN entities. Policy and strategy on all key focus areas will be driven from the Central Administration and effected at entity level. To ensure that every entity and department pulls its weight, and is aligned to the overall strategy,

the Organisational Performance and Project Management Office (OPMO) has expanded from monitoring and evaluating projects and programmes to managing organizational performance through targets as defined in the RBN scorecard. The customised RBN Project and Programme Management System will be utilized for this purpose.

In short, we have taken what used to be a one-stop-shop, the RBA, and created a structured institution that focuses on specific key areas, and which is better able to meet the needs of the community. We now envision a three-tiered administrative system, with the Central Administration providing oversight at the top. The second tier will be regional administrative structures that monitor services and ensure that infrastructure is well maintained. On the ground, *makgotla* will be supported to help information flow from the center to



the villages, and vice versa. Establishing these administrative levels will be a focus for the next 3-5 years.

In terms of our customary structures, our emphasis in the current year will be to formalize our procedures, professionalize our leaders, and continue to develop and improve the ability of *bakhuduthamaga* to drive initiatives at the village level.

### **Budget**

The Supreme Council approved a cumulative budget of R2.32 billion for the 2012 to 2014 budget cycle. The approved budget for 2012 is R922.5 million, broken down as follows:

- public & community utilities 27% (R290m)
- administration and support functions 27% (R255 m)
- education 21% (R146m)
- sports 7% (R69m)

- safety & security 5% (R51m)
- health & social development 5% (R44m)
- environmental management 3% (R34m)
- economic development 3% (R30m)
- food security 2% (R16m)
- Bafokeng history and heritage .02% (R0.2m)

These spending areas are aligned to the Masterplan. Going forward, in terms of the longer and more ambitious planning horizon of Plan '35, we will expand our infrastructure development plan to the wider Rustenburg Local Municipality. We are at an advanced stage in our discussions with the relevant parties, and over the next two decades, our aim is to create one of the most vibrant, well-planned, and sustainable regions of South Africa.



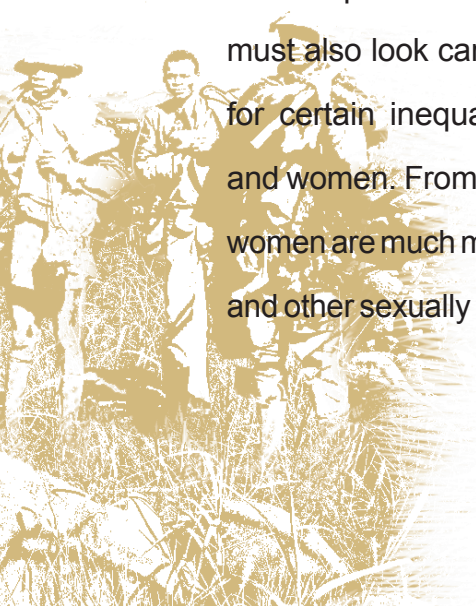
# Empowering women

Rural communities are often criticized for overlooking and marginalizing women, leaving them out of formal decision making processes, denying them the resources and access they need to play an active role in shaping and leading their societies, and turning a blind eye to neglect, abuse, and other forms of discrimination.

In truth, urban, industrialized, and democratic societies face these same issues, and it is incumbent upon all leaders to examine the laws, practices, and attitudes that lead to the systematic subordination of half of the population. As we reflect on our past, and identify those aspects of our culture that we wish to preserve and perpetuate, we must also look carefully at the reasons for certain inequalities between men and women. From PULA, we know that women are much more vulnerable to HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases,

with 30% of women over 18 in the RBN testing positive for HIV, in contrast to only 19% of men. In an average month, about 25% of the calls to the Bafokeng Safety & Security department are domestic violence cases, where the victims are overwhelmingly women and girls. Although Phokeng boasts the only comprehensive Trauma Centre for victims of rape and domestic abuse in the North West Province, our priority must be the prevention of these crimes.

Our leaders, including Supreme Council, principals and teachers, health professionals, church leaders, and especially parents must do their part by encouraging girls to value their own abilities. Our land, our community and our future belongs to all of us, and everyone deserves an equal chance to shape their own destiny. We will never achieve Plan '35 by developing and empowering only half of the community.



# Economic development

Whilst diversification remains a key pillar of our economic development strategy, we must also recognize the importance that mining plays in our local economy, and maximize the positive impact of mining on the regional economy.

Few people know that every mining job represents around 26 livelihoods. That means that for every person who works underground at Impala, about 26 other people benefit due to its economic multiplier effect. This includes everything from secondary industries such as construction and catering, to the purchasing power of that miner, to the money he remits to his home community.

Then, if we consider that about 50% of adults in the RBN are employed, and of those, almost 60%, or 61,700 people, are employed by mines, we start to understand how important mining is

to our local economy, not to mention the sector's importance to the national economy, where it represents 8% of South Africa's GDP.

## The Nationalization Debate

As a community so heavily involved with mining, we have taken it upon ourselves to study the issues related to state participation in the mining sector from a global and historical perspective. Our objective is to inform the debate through rigorous and exhaustive research. We have partnered with Harvard University, Wits, Stellenbosch, and the Institute for Mining and Metallurgy to compile a comprehensive set of findings about the social, economic, and political impacts of nationalization policies, as they have been implemented in countries all over the world.

Although everyone agrees on the urgent need for greater economic justice in our





country, a preliminary analysis of our research suggests that nationalizing the mines in South Africa would not necessarily achieve the desired impact.

The fiscal and strategic capacity of the state would not necessarily be strengthened. The policy would not necessarily result in increased mining-related jobs, or in mining related industrialization.

These findings, once interrogated and ratified by our Supreme Council, will form the basis for our formal position on the matter. We will then present them to a range of stakeholders including government, labour, industry and civil society in a series of meetings that will be called the Phokeng Debates.

In doing so, we hope to contribute to the ongoing debate on the matter. The Bafokeng model of using dividends from platinum mining to support social

and economic development in our 29 villages has attracted increasing attention within southern Africa and the world, and has earned us a voice in global debates and forums, including the World Economic Forum, the African Leadership Network, and industry groups like the Southern African Chamber of Mines. We will continue to pay careful attention to maintaining the balance between responsible and efficient mining operations, tangible benefit to the community, and broader benefit to the society as a whole.

Other major economic development initiatives focus on agriculture and tourism. The Agriculture Masterplan, nearing the end of its research phase, offers a blueprint for sustainable commercial agricultural development in our area that takes into account the challenges of our water supply, climate change, a skills deficit, and



need for better food security. The newly appointed Agriculture Development Manager will oversee the rollout of several pilot projects in commercial agriculture towards the end of 2012. As we create a portfolio of successful commercial initiatives, we will also be making changes to our policies and practices around communal grazing, in order to repair the condition of our veld and assist our livestock farmers to bring their products to market. We also look forward to launching a new business incubator funding scheme this year to assist small businesses to access the capital they need to start businesses.

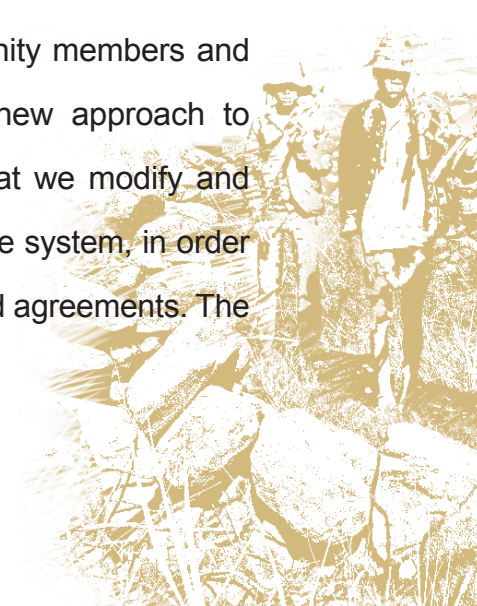
The restructuring of Royal Bafokeng Enterprise Development, whose primary mandate is develop entrepreneurship, is well underway. RBED's mandate will be expanded from Enterprise Development to a broader view of Economic Development. It is anticipated that the

new management structure at RBED will be in place by the end of the first quarter of 2012.

RBED will target job creation and poverty alleviation. The main focus in the medium term will be the establishment of an industrial park with the aim of establishing businesses in the park from 2013 onward.

### **Housing**

The development of our housing masterplan is progressing well, and a Bafokeng Housing Board will be established early next year to facilitate the provision of housing on Bafokeng land. Within the next three years, a wider range of rental options will become available to community members and visitors alike. Our new approach to housing requires that we modify and adapt our land tenure system, in order to allow for leasehold agreements. The





advantage of leasehold is that external investment and funding can be sought using land as collateral, but the ownership of the land remains in the RBN. This will help us to unlock the latent value of our land, and begin to create a commercially viable housing market. These developments will only take place on land that was bought after 1994. Our communal lands will remain unaffected. Special development zones will be demarcated for the purposes of testing this model, so that the mistakes made and lessons learned can be integrated into a larger roll-out.



# Education

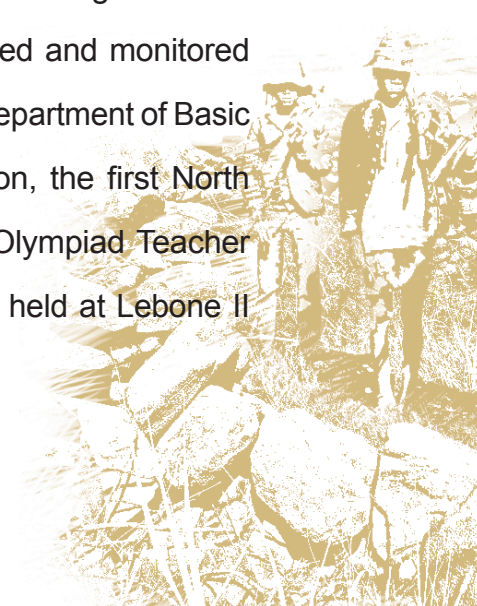
I continue to believe that educational excellence is the key to our development and sustainability as a community and a region. The resources we have devoted to education reform in the Bafokeng and Rustenburg schools over the past four years have begun to bear real fruit.

Taking a long-term view, we are focusing increased attention on expanding and improving the educational opportunities for our younger learners, those aged 3-5. Children move through many key developmental milestones during this period, and the better their environment and stimulation, especially in the area of language, the more they learn and grow.

The Royal Bafokeng Institute began working on a range of early childhood development initiatives in 2011, and will continue to expand these in 2012. Our goal is to have 75% of 3 to 5 year olds

in the Bafokeng community enrolled in registered ECD programmes by 2015. At present, we have one registered programme, and numerous others that are being improved and upgraded. We believe that the long-term payoff, as these children enter school and eventually grow into adults, will be transformational.

Our primary, middle, and high schools continue to improve their teaching, their management, and the activities they provide. The RBI team has partnered with the local Department of Education in this effort, and the results are tangible. For example, all Grade 10 mathematics classes in all 37 High Schools in the Rustenburg area will now be jointly planned and monitored by the RBI and the Department of Basic Education. In addition, the first North West Mathematics Olympiad Teacher Training course was held at Lebone II



last year. RBI is driving the North West Province's participation in this national initiative.

We launched our Section 14 agreement with the Department on the 3rd of February, which represents an important milestone in our efforts to ensure that our schools offer the highest quality learning opportunities for our children. As public schools on private land, our Section 14 schools will benefit from improved management, governance and academic interventions.

We continue to recruit, support, and monitor promising tertiary-level students into a range of academic and vocational programmes across the country. We welcomed approximately 100 first year students into the Bafokeng tertiary loan programme last month, and currently have 480 students enrolled in technical and vocational programmes. These

include construction, nursing, business and hospitality. We will establish a technical institute in the region over the next few years, which will open up a host of new opportunities for our youth.

Our Sports in Schools programmes are progressing well. Physical education classes are being conducted in 41 of the 45 RBN schools. Training of school sport coordinators is a high priority at present. In 2012, we plan to increase our focus on after school sports activities and inter-school competitions.

As a community of lifelong learners, we continue to prioritize leadership development, for young people through to senior officials. The newly named "Personal Leadership Initiative" comprises Traditional Leadership, Corporate Leadership and School Leadership programmes that will ensure that our institutions grow stronger and



more effective because they are led by organized, ethical and well-prepared individuals.

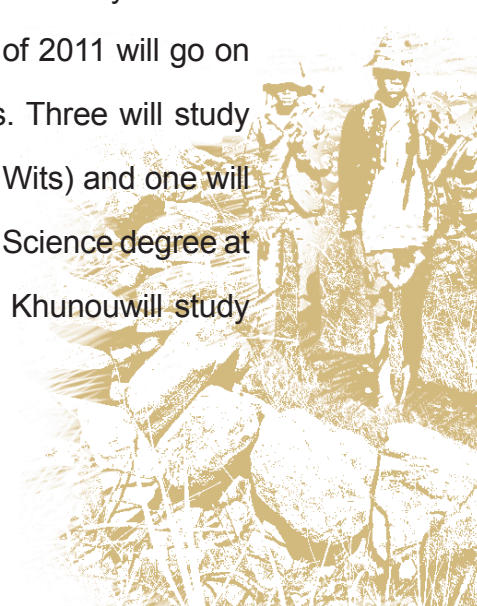
Lebone II, College of the Royal Bafokeng, continues to pursue educational excellence for its own community of teachers and learners, but also to extend the reach of its models and initiatives to our 45 other schools. Lebone staff work continuously with our other schools, providing teacher training in the areas of drama, music and maths. Lebone also hosts cognitive development workshops every month for teachers of maths, science, languages and life orientation.

It is a pleasure to announce that Lebone II achieved outstanding results in the 2011 IEB national exams, with 88% of students receiving degree level passes, making them eligible for entrance to university, almost twice as many as

last year. For the second year in a row, 100% of Lebone II students passed their exams.

Overall, Lebone II students received 20 distinctions, and I'm pleased that two of the outstanding achievers could be with us here today. Carin Coertzer received seven distinctions, and Oreeditse Sedumedi received four. These young women are a tribute to their families as well as the intense efforts of their teachers. Well done, ladies; please rise and accept a round of applause.

When I speak about excellence, I'm referring to young people like these, and the institutions that foster them. It is worth mentioning that every member of Lebone II's Class of 2011 will go on to tertiary institutions. Three will study medicine, (UCT and Wits) and one will pursue a Bachelor of Science degree at UCT. Ms. Kamogelo Khunouwill study



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Actuarial Science at UCT, and if she succeeds she will be one of the very few black female actuaries in South Africa. I'm pleased to report that one student plans to pursue her teaching qualification at the North West University, while another will study Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

Every school in our region must be an incubator of excellence, a place where young people are inspired and empowered to try new things, to aim very high, and to acquire the necessary skills to pursue their goals. Our education team is rapidly gaining national recognition for the work they are doing towards these objectives, and I have no doubt that this region will soon be known as one of the country's educational powerhouses.





# Health

Turning now to health, our primary focus is improving people's access to affordable, high quality health and social development services that are appropriate to our specific context and challenges.

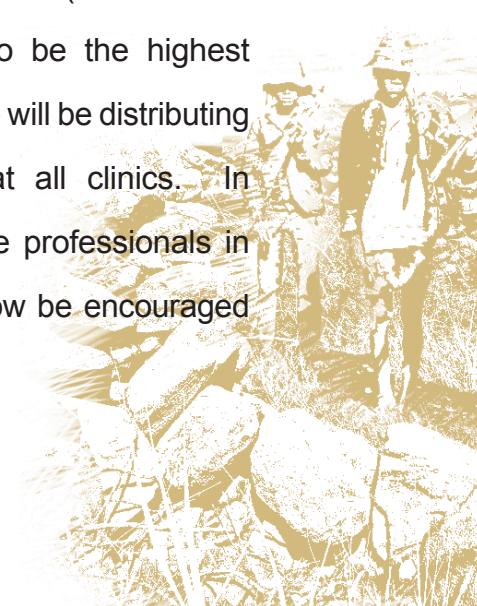
This means offering the right preventative and curative services at facilities that are located near where people live and work. Additionally, health services in the RBN will remain geared towards the inception of the NHI (National Health Insurance).

Our six clinics continue to form the core of our primary health care system. To improve the range of services provided, we will have regional one-stop shops on a rotational basis from month to month, and social workers will be added to the professional services available at the clinics. Additionally, mobile clinic services that travel to areas located

farther away from clinics will be increased in frequency from once-a-month to once-a-week visits.

HIV continues to have a dramatic impact on our community, with approximately one in four people (18+) living in the RBN infected with the virus. We have to fight this disease from every angle using every resource available. We have made important strides in reducing mother-to-child transmission, and will now focus on getting those with a negative status, especially youth, to know and protect that status.

For those who are HIV positive, improving testing, treatment, and the provision of ARTs (antiretroviral therapy) continue to be the highest priorities. As such we will be distributing ART medications at all clinics. In addition, health care professionals in all specialties will now be encouraged





to familiarize themselves with the needs of HIV+ patients, as there is no branch of medicine (or education or the private sector for that matter) that is unaffected by this disease.

Meanwhile, our research suggests that another epidemic requires urgent attention—hypertension and associated heart problems. Nearly 50% of adults in the RBN area are either hypertensive (high blood pressure), or dangerously so. Stress, diet, exercise (and heredity) are all important factors, and we will be developing programmes to urgently intervene against this “silent killer.”

The health screening we recently did for our leadership indicates that these chronic conditions are a serious threat to us. Other communicable and non-communicable diseases continue to be monitored and managed in conjunction with the NHLS (National Health

Laboratory Services), and we have improved our TB management system with our digital x-ray facility in Phokeng. Among our preventive health initiatives, we are expanding our immunization drives, including Gardasil, a vaccine that helps prevent cancer of the cervix. More screening initiatives, including those for cancer, will be implemented.

Our social development programmes continue to grow and expand. In 2011 we expanded our OVC (Orphaned and Vulnerable Children) programme from the North region to include the Capital and South East regions. This programme renders psycho-social support to these children and makes sure that at least 2/3 of their daily dietary intake is met. The affected children in the Central and North East regions will be included in the programme in 2012.



People with Disabilities are well on their way to achieving their goal of 'independent living for PwD.' We have provided wheelchairs, crutches and walking frames to those in need.

Two of our athletes with disabilities achieved gold and silver medals in the National Championships held last year at Olympia Stadium in Rustenburg. Their goal is to complete in the international Para-Olympics this year.

Almost all pay points for the pensioners have been renovated, including ablution blocks and adequate seating. Pay point committees operate a "meals on wheels" programme that cooks and feeds the aged at these facilities.

They also take food to those that are house-bound and they ensure that their houses are cleaned and they are getting their medications.

One of our major initiatives for 2012 is to improve communication and awareness in the area of health and social services. To improve awareness on how to prevent illness and social problems, we have implemented a centralised call centre, and a child line.

Additionally, we are running awareness programmes on victim empowerment, psychological services and other health issues through door to door campaigns, and at the clinics.

Finally, we are working to improve referral systems between the primary health system and the secondary and tertiary hospital services.



# Safety and Security

The mission of our protective services is to ensure the safety, security, and stability that is required for the development, growth and prosperity of the Bafokeng community.

Our approach to community policing is based on the principles of Positive Interaction, Partnerships, and Problem Solving.

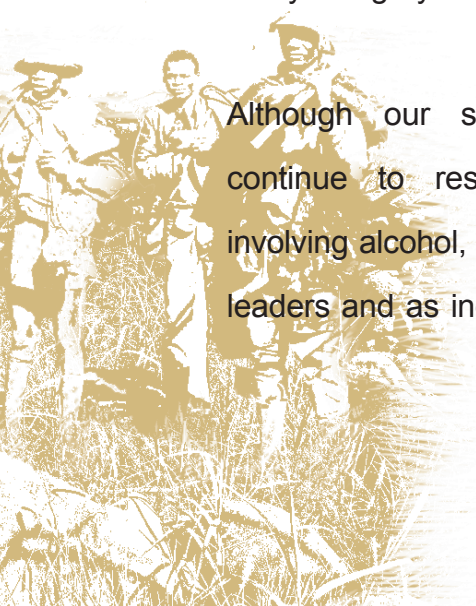
An average of 450-500 callouts from the community are attended to each month. The major areas of crime remain domestic violence, livestock theft, vandalism, assault, and illegal possession of drugs. Alcohol continues to be a key aggravator across almost every category of crime.

Although our security forces will continue to respond to incidents involving alcohol, it is also up to us as leaders and as individuals to curb the

epidemic of excessive and irresponsible drinking. Every day, we allow alcohol to rob us of our money, our relationships, our productivity, and our dignity. It has to stop, and I will take a personal interest in any and all initiatives aimed at freeing our community from the alcohol trap.

This year we will actively petition the Liquor Board with reference to the number of liquor licences awarded in our area. In addition, we intend to strictly enforce zoning regulations that dictate where commerce can take place, and ensure that no liquor outlet is located within 500 metres of a school or place of worship.

Those that do not comply with these National regulations can expect their businesses to be shut down and their owners prosecuted.



Corruption, vandalism, and other forms of theft and destruction of Bafokeng property continue to be investigated and prosecuted by our security services. Strengthening our institutions, our leadership capacity, and our community awareness of valuable communal assets such as property, fencing, and boreholes will help address these problems in the longer term, but in short term, we will pursue a zero-tolerance policy regarding crimes of this nature, and will prosecute perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law.



# Environment and Land Use

Turning to issues of environmental management and land use, increased talk about climate change, food security and environmental conferences such as COP 17, has reminded us that environmental custodianship is a task and responsibility which we should take seriously and approach methodically.

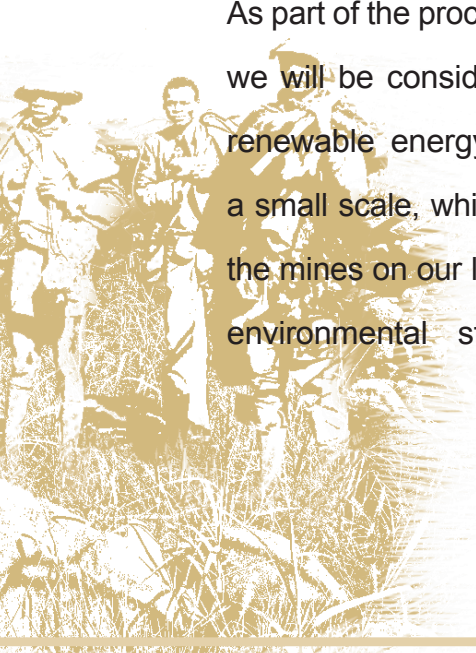
As we say in our mission statement, we “hold dear our land” as a Nation, and this requires vigilance and careful planning. When we “hold dear our land”, we acknowledge and actively steward our bio-diversity, functional ecosystems, and beauty of the land we have inherited.

As part of the process of “going green,” we will be considering the options of renewable energy sources, even on a small scale, while also ensuring that the mines on our land are held to strict environmental standards, including

checking on all post-mining rehabilitation plans. Over the course of the next two years, we will establish an independent laboratory that will monitor the effects of mining on the environment.

This will include sampling air, water and soil as well as measuring tremors on a regular basis. This will be in the interest of mitigating the negative impact of mining on the environment and its inhabitants.

We look for the profile of environmental awareness to grow in 2012, and to seek ways to demonstrate increased leadership in this field.





# Sports and Recreation

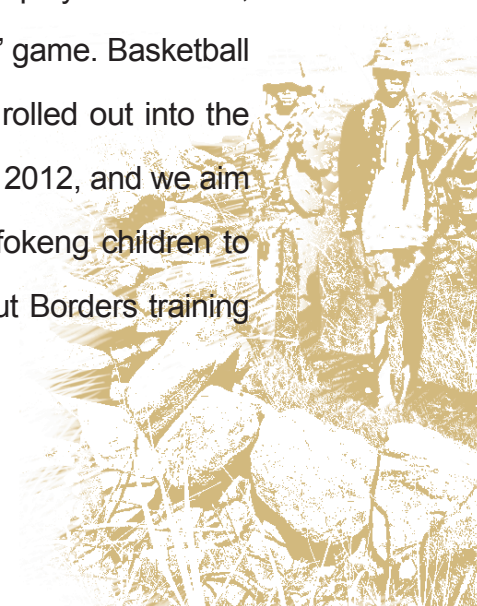
2011 saw the first intake of soccer academy players aged eleven and twelve. These are talented children selected from the Bafokeng villages who are being developed into professional players and accomplished scholars.

Additional teams for the Platinum Stars development programme were formed. These are under-19 and under-17 teams that participate in the local SAFA leagues. These teams will start competing in national competitions to increase their skills and competitiveness. Over the next two years, Platinum Stars will start featuring home-grown talent. Platinum Stars itself is stabilising and we hope to see the team finishing the league in the top 8.

The intermediate programmes are also progressing well. RBS obtained a regional status for netball, which allows netball teams in the Bafokeng villages

to participate in our own league. We hosted the under-19 and under-21 National Netball Championships at the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace. The RBS under-21 team obtained second position and this was the first time RBS participated as a region.

In partnership with the National Basketball Association (NBA), basketball was launched in May 2011 as a sixth sporting code. This programme is offered to boys and girls through the Sports in Schools programme. The Bafokeng basketball league currently includes 18 schools with girls and boys teams, for a total of 36 teams and 432 players. Our NBA coaches from the USA have noted that the quality of our play is excellent, especially in the girls' game. Basketball programmes will be rolled out into the remaining schools in 2012, and we aim to send talented Bafokeng children to the Basketball without Borders training





camp where children from all over Africa have the opportunity to be selected by the NBA for further development in the USA.

The Bafokeng dojo continues to dominate martial arts. The dojo retained the number one position in the country. Three of our karatekas travelled to the Thailand World Championships. Three rugby players from the intermediate teams were selected to represent RBS in the national under-16 and under-19 Academy Rugby week. Rugby still needs further exposure within the community

The Bafokeng Sports Campus continues to attract high profile guests from the sporting world. Teams that have come to train in our facilities include Bafana Bafana, the Springboks in the lead up to the 2011 Rugby World Cup, the Botswana Football Association, Banyana Banyana, the Black Stars from Ghana, the South African Police Service, the South African

Rugby Union, and the Sharks, Gauteng Lions and Blue Bulls rugby teams. The campus also hosted the Milo under-13 National championships, a national soccer competition run by SAFA in conjunction with the schools, and the Queen Mother's Polo Charity Cup.

Plans are underway to host Bafana Bafana at the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace and Bafokeng Sports Campus for their qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2014 in Brazil. We are also in negotiations to host the first ever regional Special Olympics African Football Tournament in the third quarter of 2012. This tournament will feature Unified Sports teams from 16 countries including participation from two teams from the RBN. This ever-growing demand for our facility now dictates that we build a sports village and a proper sports academy of world class standards that can accommodate those who cannot afford the rates at the Royal Marang Hotel.

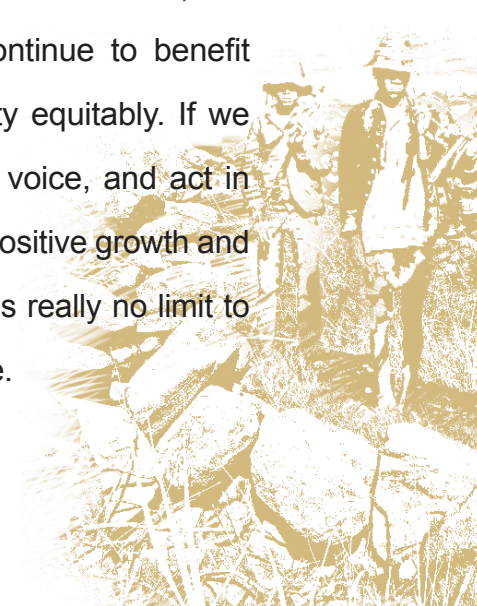


# Conclusion

I began these remarks by reflecting on how our society operated in the past, and I proposed that we emulate some of those practices, to the extent that they enhance social cohesion, group identity and solidarity, and community safety and security. I'd like to conclude by reflecting briefly on a different aspect of our strategy to become a leading traditional community. We often speak about our efforts to corporatize our organization, our entities, and our services. Some amongst us have interpreted this to mean that we seek to introduce a multinational corporate ideology that pursues profit at the cost of the environment and the surrounding communities. Understandable, I suppose, if you consider the track record of certain companies that recklessly pollute the environment and leave only poor and divided communities in their wake. This is obviously not our intention in the

Bafokeng Nation. Quite the contrary. We are building institutions that are staffed by professionals, regulated by systems, policies and procedures, and that are accountable to the community. Plan '35, the Masterplan, and all of our strategies are aimed at creating an enabling environment for individual and community prosperity.

Our institutions must outlast their incumbents if they are to be sustainable, which is why they must be durable, organized, and efficient. So while we use the mechanisms of the free market to grow our assets and secure our future prosperity, the reason we build institutions is to become the best possible stewards of those assets, and ensure that they continue to benefit the entire community equitably. If we speak with a single voice, and act in unison in pursuit of positive growth and development, there is really no limit to what we can achieve.



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In this spirit, you are all well aware that the summer Olympics are taking place this year in London, where we hope to send four of our top athletes. I would like us to get behind these promising future stars from our community and offer them the enthusiasm and support that they deserve.

Thank you for the honour of your presence on this day. The faces that grace this room change from year to year, but it is my hope that we have set out on a path so compelling and so inevitable that it will continue to unfold long after those of us here today cease to cross the threshold of this chamber. I thank you all for the part you play in realizing our goals. The future historians of our great community will regard you well.

Thank you.









