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Editor's Note

Welcome to the very first issue of Kitso, the quarterly newsletter of the Research and Knowledge Management Department (R&KM) of the Royal Bafokeng Administration (RBA). It seemed appropriate to name the newsletter Kitso, which means "knowledge" in Setswana, because it was created as an instrument of knowledge sharing about our research activities with associates from all over the world, as well as Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN) stakeholders.

In this issue, we take a closer look at how our Population and Use of Land Audit (PULA) of 2011 compares with the South African 2011 National Census. This comparison shows how we are doing as a nation in various indi-

cators such as education, provision of basic needs and other development factors in comparison to



other regions of South Africa. Full details can be found in the article on page 3.

We also feature articles on the Bafokeng Digital Archive and the Oral History programme, both run by our archivist, Khumo Moleboye. Part of our planned regular columns for this newsletter is the profiling of other RBN publications

and our first random pick is the "People of the Dew". You will also enjoy reading an article under a column dedicated to Independent Researchers who conduct research in/on the RBN and that is on Page 5. We also hope that readers will like a Special Topic corner, where we feature any topic of interest to the department, ranging from events taking place in the department to comments on issues of national interest. In this issue, we say goodbye to our outgoing Head of Department, Dr. Sue Cook.

Thank you.

Dr. Moleboheng Mohapi

The Bafokeng Digital Archive by Khumo Moloby

BAFOKENG Digital Archive



Following the publishing of the book "Mining the Future: The Bafokeng Story", and the making of the documentary "Playing the Game the Bafokeng Way", an appetite for the story of the Royal Bafokeng Nation grew tremendously worldwide. In order to simplify the accessibility of information for interested audiences, the RBN established the Bafokeng Digital Archive (BDA). The BDA aims to collect the traces of the Nation's past within the RBN and beyond, and make them accessible to a wide range of audiences including students and teachers, researchers and the media, as well as local communities and tourists.

The BDA is web-based and can be accessed from all over the world. The URL to the website is

www.bafokengarchives.com and it is a very user-friendly site, envisaged to go live at the end of April 2013.

Since its formation in 2011, the BDA has collected over 500 items of material including images, texts, audio and video and the collection will continue to grow. The collection includes newspaper articles, letters, telegrams, colonial government documents and pictures depicting the history of Bafokeng. This history is well documented from the Mephato (age-regiments) in Kimberley, (in the late 1800s), the era of Kgosi Mokgatle and the arrival of missionaries, and the Bophuthatswana and Bafokeng feuds during Kgosi Lebone I's leadership up to the present day Royal Bafokeng Nation. Moreover, the BDA contains information about other interesting personalities who interacted

with the Bafokeng. For instance, there is a link on Paul Kruger who interacted with Kgosi Mokgatle on a regular basis and German missionaries who established the first mission station in Phokeng.

The success of this digital archive is dependent on contributions from members of the public in general and the Bafokeng community in particular. The RBN therefore calls on community members to donate material of heritage or historic value and take part in the oral evidence gathering exercise or comment on the blog topics.

"The oral history project is meant to help preserve the history and culture of Bafokeng for the benefit of future generations."

The Oral History Project by Khumo Moloby & Dr. Moleboheng Mohapi

Out of a great passion to preserve the history and culture of Bafokeng for the benefit of future generations and also to enable easy access for people wanting to know about the Nation's past, the R&KM Department embarked on an Oral History Project in 2012.

In this project, the department collects oral history from members of the RBN, with a special focus on the elderly and anyone with profound knowledge of the history and culture of the Bafokeng. It is said that when one old man or woman with indigenous knowledge dies, a whole library is burned down. The idea is therefore to reach as many of these 'libraries' and record their stories as soon as possible so that we do not lose them when they pass on.

The themes covered in the interviews range from issues of governance and leadership styles of previous Bafokeng kings, land acquisition and conflict resolution to those pertaining to traditional attire, cuisine, language and art. The interviews will also provide

inputs for the development of a heritage route. Once the interviews are conducted, we apply selection guidelines and archival standards to the raw material. Relevant information gets sifted and uploaded onto the Bafokeng Digital Archive, which is accessible to the public.

As an internal resource, we anticipate that the Oral History Project will benefit the education, legal, communication and governance departments in the Bafokeng Administration. In our schools, for example, children can now learn about Bafokeng history using our newly archived interviews. Furthermore, since these histories cover almost all facets of life in the Bafokeng Nation, they could be used to advise the leadership on resolutions and decision-making.

As part of the project, the department held a two-day training workshop in November 2012 for volunteers interested in the project. Ten volunteers representing the five regions of the Bafokeng Nation took part in the Oral His-

tory Project training, which was facilitated by Dr Tlou Setumu, a renowned historian and heritage practitioner.

One of the mandates of the R&KM Department is capacity building of young Bafokeng researchers. We therefore hope that the training was the beginning of a long relationship with these volunteers, whom we hope will develop an interest in a career in research in the future. Below is a picture of people who took part in the training.



Participants of the Oral History Training Workshop

How do we compare? A Comparison of the 2011 National Census and PULA

By Ogodiseng Letlape

A census counts every person living in a region or a country and collects information about them and the households they live in. This information is used to inform policies towards socio-economic development. Censuses are usually repeated regularly to allow decision makers to evaluate the impact of policy changes and progress towards development goals.

In 2011, Statistics South Africa conducted its third national census post-1994. In June of the same year, the Royal Bafokeng Nation embarked on its own census headed by the Research & Knowledge department, which was named PULA (Population Use of Land Audit). PULA is unique in that it is an account of all the people living within a rural, traditional community.

By comparing PULA with the national census, the RBN can assess our socio-economic status against the national average. This will allow us to see where we are doing better than the rest of the country, but also where we need to focus our energies and catch up if we are lagging behind.

An important finding of PULA was that the demographic make-up of RBN residents differs from the national average due to labour migration

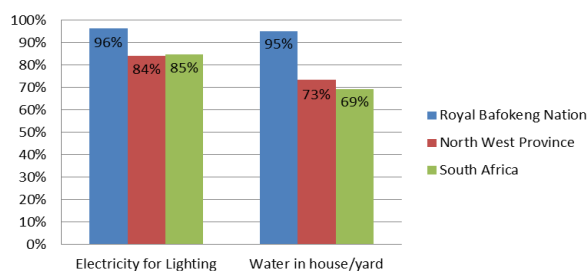
attracted by the mines in the area. Of the 142 000 people living on RBN land, about a third identify themselves as non-Bafokeng. This population is largely of working age (e.g. between 20 and 60 years of age) and disproportionately male, meaning that the age and gender patterns of the overall population are skewed.

water inside the house or yard. This is significantly higher than the national average, which Stats SA estimates to be around 73.4%, and the provincial average for the North West, which stands at 69.3%. Access to both water and electricity has improved markedly in the RBN over the past ten years due to extensive investments by the Royal Bafokeng Administration in the provision of these services.

Sanitation

On the other hand, the RBN lags behind significantly in the provision of sanitation. Only 12% of RBN households have flush sanitation, compared with 45.4% in the North West and 60% nationally. 59% of RBN households still rely on unventilated pit latrines.

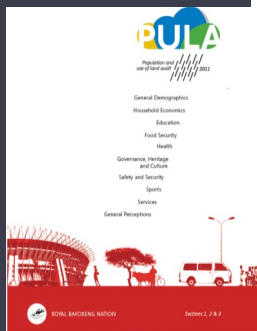
Access to Electricity and Water



A comparison of electricity and water access statistics in the whole of South Africa, the North West Province and the RBN.

Access to water and electricity

Access to electricity and water in the RBN is significantly higher than the provincial and national average. This is especially striking for a rural area, since the national average includes the large metropolitan areas. The percentage of households that use electricity for lighting was reported at 96.4% for the RBN, while provincially it stood at 84% and nationally at 84.7%. In terms of access to water, most households (95.1%) in the RBN have access to piped



Population and Use of Land Audit 2011

“PULA is unique in that it is an account of all the people living within a rural, traditional community.”

“I’ve loved every second of working in the RBA, and I will miss everyone who welcomed me and worked with me toward promoting research and preserving history.”

Farewell to a dedicated researcher

The RBA bids a sad farewell to Dr. Susan Cook, who has led the Research & Knowledge Management Department since 2008. Cook used her tenure in Phokeng to develop a “data driven” approach to development planning. Starting with the Bafokeng Economic Barometer in 2005, a baseline socioeconomic survey in 2008, and most recently the Population and Use of Land Audit (PULA) in 2011, Dr. Cook’s team of social scientists has produced a number of fact-based reports to assist in strategic decision making.

Trained as a linguistic and cultural anthropologist, Cook has also advanced the study of Bafokeng history and heritage during her time in the RBN. She oversaw the making of the film *Playing the Game the Bafokeng Way*, and a range of books including *Mining the Future: The Bafokeng Story*; *People of the Dew*; *The Royal Bafokeng 2010 World Cup Journey* and, with RBH’s support, the *Setswana and English Illustrated Dictionary*. The newly launched Bafokeng Digital Archive (www.bafokengarchives.co.za) is one of the Department’s latest achievements.



Dr Sue Cook

Cook’s own research in Phokeng began in 1995 when she was gathering linguistic data for her PhD in anthropology at Yale University, and since then she has published extensively on a wide range of topics, including language, culture, sport, business, education, and law. She also supervised many independent researchers from universities around the world interested in learning about traditional governance, the mining industry, Setswana culture, and many other topics. Many of these reports and publications are available at www.bafokeng.com/research. Before joining the RBA, Dr. Cook was an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the

University of Pretoria. Originally from the USA, Dr. Cook is returning home to assume the post of Executive Director of the Committee on African Studies at Harvard University. “I’ve loved every second of working in the RBA, and I will miss everyone who welcomed me and worked with me toward promoting research and preserving history,” Cook commented. The new Head of Research in the RBA is Dr. Tara Polzer Ngwato, a political scientist and expert in development studies.



Dr Tara Polzer Ngwato

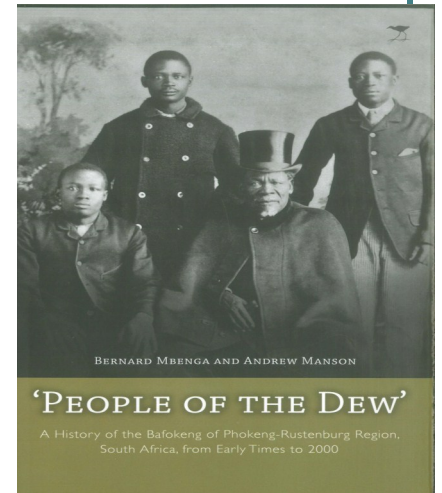
“The Bafokeng story represents a unique and fascinating case of leadership, land and the law.”

RBN Publications

‘People of the Dew’, written by Bernard Mbenga and Andrew Manson (Jacana Media 2010), is the first book length record of the history of the Bafokeng as a people.

The history of the people who later called themselves the Bafokeng stretches back to at least the mid-15th century, and reflects many familiar themes in the history of southern Africa: migration, colonization, missionisation, industrialization, labour migration and resistance against

oppression and exploitation, as well as internal contests between factions within the Bafokeng themselves. Within the overall sociopolitical context of colonial and post-colonial southern Africa, however, the Bafokeng story also represents a unique and fascinating case of leadership, land and the law, which continues to have important implications for the Bafokeng, and for South Africa as a whole, in the present day.



Book cover of ‘People of the Dew’

Independent Researchers

Due to its public profile as a modernising traditional community, an innovator in education and social development, and a large and successful community-based investment company, the RBN attracts attention by a large number of external researchers who wish to conduct research on and in the RBN. The RBN welcomes independent researchers as they bring specialised skills and perspectives, and enable the RBN to share its experiences with a wide audience. The RBN as a community sees the production of knowledge about itself as an important part of its heritage, and so carefully monitors the quality of research conducted by independent researchers.

This includes holding researchers accountable for ethical, consultative and collaborative research practices. To this end, there are five principles which inform research within the RBN: respecting the protocols of the RBN as a traditional community; fulfilling the highest standards of professional research practice; being closely aligned to the community development and heritage preservation objectives of the RBN; avoiding duplication of past research and existing knowledge; and communicating back to the RBN so that research findings remain accessible and relevant to the RBN after researchers leave.

The Research & Knowledge Management Department has

developed a set of policies based on these principles to guide independent researchers, as well as a research permission application process. These documents can be found on www.bafokengarchives.com and can also be requested by email from RKM@bafokeng.com. We look forward to working closely together with researchers from around the country and the world to continue building and sharing our store of knowledge.

About the Research & Knowledge Management Department



The Research & Knowledge Management (RKM) is a department under the Royal Bafokeng Administration, (RBA) of the Royal Bafokeng Nation. It is mandated to collect, compile and disseminate information relevant to the Royal Bafokeng Nation's broad strategic objectives.

The department also holds close regard to heritage preservation of the Bafokeng people and has made considerable efforts in documenting the history of the Bafokeng people through book publications, reports, voice and video recordings and images.

For more information on the RKM and its research agenda and endeavours, visit the Royal Bafokeng Nation website on www.bafokeng.com/research as well as www.bafokengarchives.com.

Acknowledgements

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