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Partnerships one

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROYAL BAFOKENG NATION SEEKS CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH NEW ZEALAND

In conjunction with efforts to bring global best practice to its social development programmes in Phokeng and the North West Province, representatives from the Royal Bafokeng Nation visited New Zealand to explore educational and cultural partnerships.

Kgosi Leruo Molotlegi visited a number of projects and venues associated with Maori people (indigenous New Zealanders), including the Waipareira Trust which serves the needs of Maori people living in urban areas, and Turangawaewae Marae, where he was received by King Tuheitia. In his formal remarks, King Tuheitia said “welcome to my house, you bring it honour and you have, without knowing it, opened another pathway for me to the heritage of my people today.” Kgosi Leruo replied “I hope that today is the start of a long, affectionate, and mutually beneficial relationship between ourselves and Turangawaewae.”

Kgosi Leruo will also visited Te Kura Maori o Nga Tapuwae, a Maori school where he met with the Minister of Maori Affairs. The Bafokeng delegation visited educational facilities including the Waikato Institute of Technology and the Auckland University of Technology to observe best practice in technical and vocational training, an effort to foster relationships between the said institutes and the Royal Bafokeng Institute.

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In line with the goal of developing the Bafokeng Sports Campus into an internationally recognized sports academy, the Bafokeng delegation also visited the Millennium Institute of Sport & Health, New Zealand's world class sports training centre. An opportunity to watch the South Africa v Samoa match of the Rugby World Cup concluded the visit.

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Notes to Editors: About the Royal Bafokeng Nation

The Royal Bafokeng Nation is a unique African community where tradition meets modernity. Located in the Rustenburg Valley in the North West Province, the twenty-nine villages of the Royal Bafokeng Nation boast some of the most innovative approaches to sustainable development in Africa. These include holistic education reform, the use of sport to generate social and financial returns, and converting mineral resources into the world's leading community-based investment company.

The King of the Royal Bafokeng Nation is *Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi*, 36th in a long line of visionary traditional leaders. Thanks to the pioneering spirit of the King's ancestors, the Bafokeng community owns the rights to the largest known reserves of platinum and chrome in the world. Vision 2020 and the Masterplan, the strategic blueprints for the community's future, aim to create a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable community true to its African heritage and traditions.

Bafokeng leadership combines elected, appointed, and hereditary leaders committed to long-term, future-oriented planning. The Royal Bafokeng Stadium stands as the only community-owned stadium in the FIFA 2010 World Cup.