

## Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace

The Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace is situated in Phokeng, in the heart of the Royal Bafokeng Nation, about 90 minutes from Johannesburg.

The Sports Palace was originally commissioned by Kgosi Lebone II, the previous King of the Royal Bafokeng Nation. Designed and built as a soccer and rugby venue, the stadium first opened in 2000. The cost of R 120 million was 100% funded by the Royal Bafokeng Administration.



In 2004, the Sports Palace became part of South Africa's bid for the 2010 FIFA World Cup as the venue in the host city of Rustenburg.

On 17 June 2009, the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace hosted Bafana Bafana to a superb 2-0 victory over New Zealand's All Whites; in 2006 the multipurpose Sports Palace hosted the Springboks against the All Blacks, New Zealand's rugby team. The Springboks won 21 – 20, inspiring headlines such as ***Bafokeng Brilliant Boks!***

In preparation for the 2010 FIFA World Cup the stadium increased its capacity from 39,000 to 44,389 and now boasts 24 suites. New electronic scoreboards, floodlights and a public address system were added to enable the Sports Palace to host the world's best footballers and their fans. The new level of the lighting is above 2,000 lux, enough to support high definition television. Two enormous generators provide backup power for the entire stadium complex. The stadium upgrades cost R460 million, 60% of which was funded by the Royal Bafokeng Administration, and 40% by the South African government.

The Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace will be among the first in South Africa to designate a "family section" where families with children can enjoy professional sports in a secure environment.

- Other facilities include a Swimming Pool complex with seating for 250, and a Tennis and Netball facility.
- The stadium is easily accessible from the N4 highway.
- There is ample parking to accommodate 550 cars, 65 buses and 95 taxis.



**Upcoming events at the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace include:**  
FIFA 2010 World Cup – June/July 2010

## The Royal Bafokeng Nation

The Royal Bafokeng Nation, through its subsidiary company Royal Bafokeng Sports, supports five sporting codes throughout its 29 villages: soccer, rugby, netball, martial arts and athletics. The development of professional, club, and community-level sport is one of the ways the Royal Bafokeng Nation hopes to establish an economic niche and create both jobs and revenue for the surrounding communities.



The 300,000-strong Royal Bafokeng Nation is a traditionally-governed community in South Africa's North West Province that seeks to convert its mineral-based revenues into socioeconomic upliftment through its corporate entities: Royal Bafokeng Administration, Royal Bafokeng Institute, and Royal Bafokeng Holdings.

The Nation's vision is to create a socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable community without losing sight of its African heritage and traditions.

The community is led by a hereditary Kgosi (King) and the Royal Bafokeng Supreme Council, made up of 82 hereditary, elected, and appointed officials.



*Kgosi Leruo T. Molotlegi*

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