

Fact Sheet: Royal Bafokeng Nation

A forward thinking traditional community



The Royal Bafokeng Nation is a vibrant African community where tradition meets modernity in Big Five country. Located in the Rustenburg Valley in South Africa's 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 economic momentum, and the conversion of mineral resources into the world's leading community-based investment company.

Thanks to the pioneering spirit of their ancestors, the Bafokeng community controls 1400 km² of land situated on the largest platinum reserve 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.





Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi


The Royal Family

Kgosi Leruo Tshekedi Molotlegi is the current King of the Bafokeng. He is the 36th recorded king and the 15th in a direct father-son line. He is the third son of Queen Mother Semane Molotlegi and the late Kgosi Lebone I. He succeeded his late brother Kgosi Lebone II in 2000. His brother Fosi Boemo Matala passed away in 1999. He has three younger siblings, Princess Motswana Molotlegi, Prince Bothata Molotlegi and Princess Tirelo Molotlegi.


Professional structures

 **Royal Bafokeng Holdings**
Manages the Bafokeng investment portfolio

 **Royal Bafokeng Sports**
Oversees commercial and developmental sporting programmes

 **Royal Bafokeng Enterprise Development**
Supports and incubates small, micro-, and medium sized enterprises

 **Royal Bafokeng Institute**
Education reform, vocational training and leadership development

 **Royal Bafokeng Administration**
Provides infrastructure and social services to the community



Bafokeng Traditional Council

Governance

The Bafokeng Supreme Council is made up of hereditary headmen and elected and appointed men and women who form the traditional legislature and abide by Bafokeng customary law and the South African Constitution.



Accountability To The Future

The Bafokeng are committed to using the proceeds from the platinum-rich Bushveld Complex to invest in a future where human capital and a diversified economy will ensure prosperity for future generations of Bafokeng.

This commitment is translated into a wide range of initiatives, including:

- HIV/AIDS Prevention, Treatment and Care
- School Nutrition and School Gardens
- Care For Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Primary Health Care
- University Loans and Vocational Training
- School of Excellence
- Leadership Development
- Enterprise Development
- Waterborne Sewerage
- Promotion of History and Heritage



The Totemic Tradition

The Bafokeng, like other African communities, are symbolised by a totem (“sereto” in Setswana) that is linked to the history and heritage of the community.

The Bafokeng totem is the crocodile. The Bafokeng crocodile appears with its mouth closed, and the expression “a e wele mo metsing” (“let there be peace”) is associated with the totem and the peaceful diplomatic nature of the people.

Today, Bafokeng people often address their King and each other as “Mokwena” meaning (“he of the crocodile”) as a sign of respect.



Fast facts

- Capital: Phokeng
- Population: 300 000
- Area: 1400km²
- Governance structure: traditionally-governed, subject to laws and structures of South African government
- Investment portfolio: R30 billion as at 2009 year end
- Totem: Crocodile
- Languages: Setswana, English
- Time: GMT +2hrs
- GPS: -25.5786, 27.1607
- Industries: Mining and Agriculture
- Climate: Hot summers, Cool winters
- Altitude: 1300 km above sea level

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