



A Year in Review:
Our Journey Together
Bakoena royal council
Newsletter

"Re aha bokamoso ka matsoho 'ohle."
(We build the future with all our hands.)





Vision & Leadership

Under the stewardship of His Majesty Moremoholo Mopeli, the Bakoena Royal Council continues to uphold its founding mission — “HO’LA” (Grow), to nurture community, culture and sustainable development across Qwaqwa and the Basotho nation.

This year reaffirmed that mission through impactful initiatives in education, heritage, social welfare, youth empowerment and community upliftment.

Sesotho inspirational thought:

“Moetapele wa nnete ke ya bonesang tsela eseng ya hulang kgwele.”

(A true leader lights the path, not pulls the rope.)

Key Initiatives & Community Impact

Heritage & Cultural Revival: Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre

A landmark achievement of 2025 was the official opening of the Kgodumodumo Dinosaur Interpretation Centre in Golden Gate Highlands National Park — a world-class facility that blends science, heritage, paleontology and Basotho identity.

The Centre revives the ancient legend of “Kgodumodumo” — the Great Giant, connecting our myths with historical fossil evidence, and placing Basotho heritage into global scientific dialogue.

His Majesty Moremoholo Mopeli described the launch as a symbol of our resilience, memory and the awakening of our heritage economy.





Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

The Centre is strategically positioned as:

- A cultural tourism asset,
- An economic engine,
- A job creator,
- And a hub for community-based opportunities across crafts, storytelling, guiding and heritage preservation.



Why this matters:

“Setjhaba se se nang nalane, ha se na bokamoso.”
(A nation without history has no future.)

Kgodumodumo restores our story, honours our ancestors, and opens real pathways for economic and cultural renewal.



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

School Shoes Drive & Birthday Month Outreach

This year's School Shoes Drive at Sekgothadi Primary School, Tshwarathebe Primary School, Diphakweng Primary School, Iteboheleng Primary School, Makong Primary School, Matsieng, Diphakweng Primary School, Shweshwe Primary School, Madiboho Primary School, Boitelo Primary School, Boiketlo Primary School, continued the tradition of transforming His Majesty's birthday month into a season of service and generosity.

The Council also visited new mothers and infants at Elizabeth Ross Hospital, honouring the place of His Majesty's birth and celebrating new life with gifts and blessings.

Why this matters:

"Ngwana ke wa setjhaba."
(A child belongs to the community.)

By investing in children and mothers, we protect the foundation of our society.





Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Building Knowledge: Libraries, Learning Spaces & Youth Development

Guided by the vision of our Queen mother Mofumahadi MaThokoana Mopeli, development continues toward establishing a community library, youth centre and amphitheatre.

These are envisioned as hubs for:

- Learning and reading culture,
- Youth creativity and recreation,
- Community dialogue and civic participation.

Morena E Moholo Moremoholo Mopeli, in collaboration with Youth In Action Organisation, the Kgosatsana Manapo Mopeli Foundation, and the MT Foundation, conducted an oversight visit and book donation drive at Nkarabeng Secondary School in Kestell.

Driven by passion for education, the establishment of this library and the donation of books by Morena E Moholo and his partners aim to empower and inspire the youth through access to knowledge and learning resources.

This initiative is supported by Mofumahadi MaThokoana and African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) — vital partners in enabling educational upliftment and long-term community resources.





Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Building Knowledge: Libraries, Learning Spaces & Youth Development - continued

The Bakoena Royal Council proudly celebrated Women's Month with the inaugural Mofumahadi MaMotebang Mopeli Women's Day School Cup.

It was a joyful day at Tsebo Secondary School, celebrating young girls, sports and empowerment.



Why this matters:

“Thuto ke lesedi.”
(Education is light.)

A library is not just a building — it is a generator of opportunity.



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Leadership, Recognition & Advocacy

This year, Queen Mamotebang Mopeli was appointed Deputy Chairperson of the South African Queens Council, strengthening the influence of Queens in governance, socio-economic transformation and cultural preservation.



Mofumahadi MaMotebang Mopeli was also honoured with the prestigious Forty Under Forty South Africa Award. This recognition was for her outstanding contribution to philanthropy, community development and the advancement of marginalized and vulnerable groups in governance and oversight structures—a true reflection of her passion, leadership and service.

Additionally, Morena Napo Mopeli and Mofumahadi MaNneheng Mopeli were elected Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Bakoena Royal Council — a clear demonstration of the Royal Family's confidence in youth leadership and women leadership, and a commitment to continuity, renewal and vision.

Why this matters:

"Bana ba kajeno ke marena a hosane."
(The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.)

Strong leadership secures stability, progress and unity.



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Health, Welfare & Strategic Partnerships

In June 2025, the Bakoena Royal Council engaged provincial health leadership led by the MEC for Health, Ms. Mahlatsi. These engagements focused on:

- Improving healthcare access,
- Strengthening HIV & TB prevention and treatment,
- Exploring collaborative outreach models.

The MEC and provincial structures also recently conducted a major initiative in Rooling, further demonstrating active partnership between traditional leadership and the department.

Why this matters:

“Bophelo ke letlotlo.”
(Life is a treasure.)

Health partnerships ensure that no community is left behind.

Heritage, Youth & Cultural Identity — Our Roots, Our Future

Beyond the Kgodumodumo Centre, the Royal House expanded its commitment to cultural revival, Sesotho language promotion and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

The initiation season has also commenced, and the Royal Council extends prayers and support for a safe, dignified and culturally grounded rite of passage for all initiates, guided by the wisdom of elders and the protection of our ancestors.

Why this matters:

“Setso se boloka setjhaba.”
(Culture preserves a nation.)

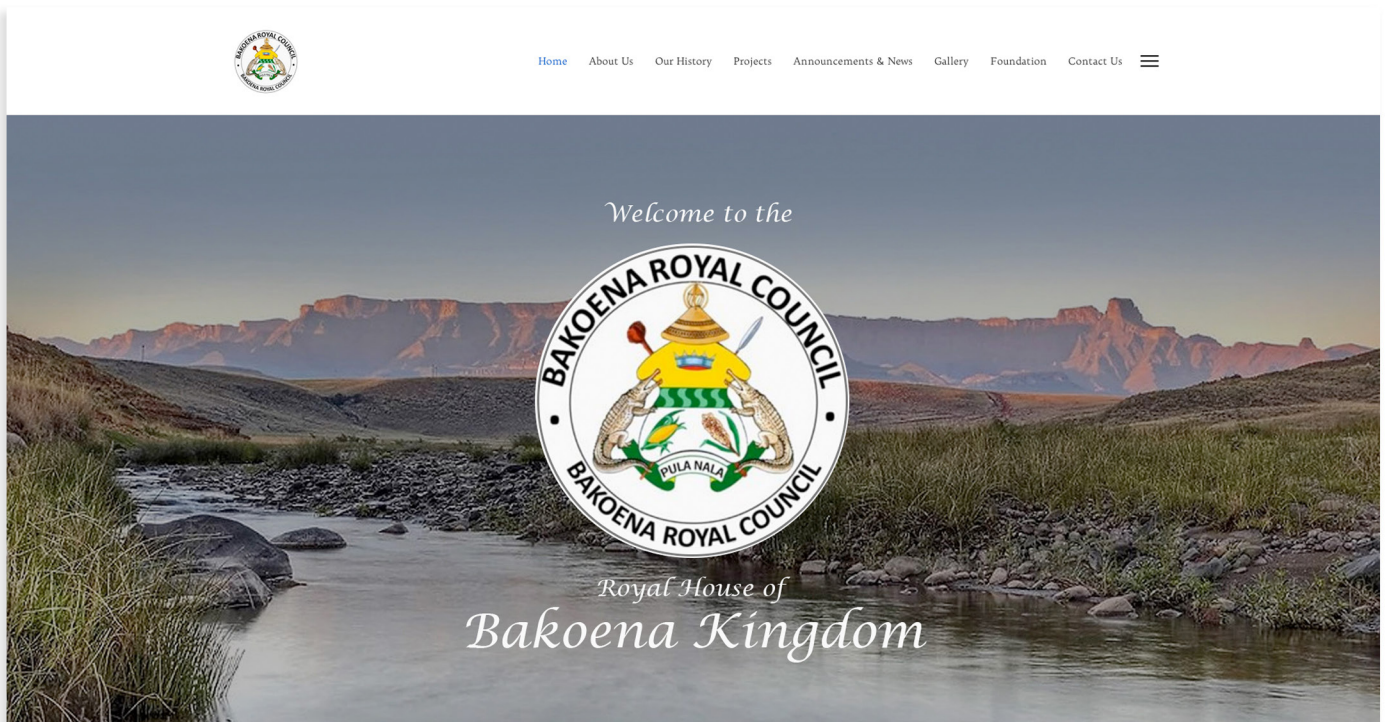
Strengthening identity builds strong, confident future generations.





Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Bakoena Kingship Media & Digital Presence Expansion



This year marked a historic milestone for the Bakoena Kingship with the successful launch of the official Bakoena Kingship website, designed to strengthen communication, preserve heritage, and provide a central hub for all royal announcements, projects, and cultural knowledge.

The digital expansion further included the enhancement and alignment of all official media platforms, ensuring that the activities of Morena e Moholo, Moremoholo Mopeli and the Royal Household are communicated consistently and professionally.

These platforms now serve as trusted sources for updates on royal initiatives, cultural programmes, community engagement activities, and public statements.

Official Bakoena Kingship Digital Platforms now include:

- The Official Bakoena Kingship Website
- Facebook Page
- Instagram Page
- X (Twitter) Page

This strengthened digital presence has significantly improved public engagement, archival documentation, accessibility to information, and the visibility of on-going programmes under the leadership of Morena e Moholo and the Royal Household.



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Challenges & Forward Look

Despite significant progress, several urgent challenges must be confronted:

Land & Planning

- The community's urgent need for additional land for development and sustainable use.
- Challenges of illegal and unlawful land occupation exacerbated by misalignment between local government and traditional leadership structures.

Infrastructural Decay

- Numerous abandoned factories, old shopping centers, closed schools and unused public buildings remain trapped in bureaucratic red tape — wasted opportunities for jobs, enterprise and community renewal.

Traditional Governance Support

- The absence of formal village offices for headmen/headwomen and councils continues to hinder service delivery.

Traditional leaders are forced to operate from their homes using limited personal resources —

“jwalo ka mapolesa a qobellwang ho lwantsha botlokotsebe ka mehloli ya bona.”
(Like policemen expected to fight crime using their own private means.)

Why this matters:

Because real transformation requires aligned leadership, efficient administration and the unlocking of unused assets for community benefit.

Gratitude & Call to Action

We express profound gratitude to:

- Community members,
- Partners and stakeholders,
- Government departments,
- Private sector contributors,
- And all who supported our programmes — from the School Shoes Drive to Kgodumodumo, to health engagements and educational infrastructure planning.

As we move forward, we invite every willing heart to join us — through volunteerism, partnership, investment or advocacy.

“Motho ke motho ka batho.”
(Ubuntu: A person is a person through others.)



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued



Compassion in Action: Festive Season Outreach across the Bakoena Districts

In the spirit of unity, compassion and shared humanity, Morena e Moholo — with the valued assistance of friends and partners in the private sector — convened elders and those less fortunate across all seven Bakoena Districts during the festive season.

These gatherings were moments of dignity and warmth, marked by:

- Fellowship through song and storytelling,
- shared meals and gifts,
- The reaffirmation that no elder stands alone and no household is forgotten.

Why this matters:

“Ho hlompha baholo ke ho hlompha metso ea rona.”
(To honour elders is to honour our roots.)

Caring for the elderly preserves wisdom, continuity and the moral soul of the nation.



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Compassion in Action: Festive Season Outreach across the Bakoena Districts



Advancing the National Health Agenda: Children's Centre at Mofumahadi Manapo Regional Hospital
The Bakoena Royal Council remains a proud and active supporter of South Africa's National Health Agenda. In alignment with this commitment, work is underway to establish a dedicated Children's Centre at Mofumahadi Manapo Regional Hospital.

This centre is envisioned as a space of:

- Healing and specialised care for children,
- Dignity and comfort for young patients and their families,
- Strengthened paediatric services within the region.

We look forward to the naming, official opening and full operationalisation of this important hospital ward, which stands as a testament to our belief that the health of children is the health of the future.

Why this matters:

"Bana ke letlotlo la hosane."
(Children are the treasure of tomorrow.)

Strong health systems safeguard generations yet to come.



Key Initiatives & Community Impact - continued

Climate Leadership & National Service

We are deeply honoured to announce the appointment of Her Majesty Queen Mofumahadi Mamotebang Mopeli to the Presidential Climate Commission (PCC) for the 2026–2030 tenure.

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the new cohort in terms of the Climate Change Act, 2024 (Act No. 22 of 2024) — recognising leaders who will guide South Africa’s response to climate change, sustainability and a just transition.

This appointment reflects:

- Trust in traditional leadership voices at national level,
- The growing role of Queens in policy, advocacy and stewardship of land and people,
- The alignment between cultural guardianship and environmental responsibility.

Why this matters:

“Re alima lefatshe ho bana ba rona.”
(We borrow the earth from our children.)

Climate leadership today secures life, livelihoods and heritage tomorrow.

Stay Connected: Walk the Journey With Us

We invite all community members, partners and friends to look out for the Bakoena Royal Council on social media and to engage with our seasonal newsletter, which will:

- keep you informed on what is hot and happening,
- share progress on projects, programmes and leadership engagements,
- provide a platform to communicate with the broader Royal Leadership of the Bakoena Royal Council.

Through these platforms, we continue to pursue our ultimate objective and divine obligation: to lead God’s people toward that which is good, just and everlasting.



Closing Appreciation

Thank you for walking this journey with us,
through seasons of growth, service and renewal.
Your presence, prayers, partnerships and participation give life to our shared vision.

Together, we build.

Together, we grow.

Together, we secure a future rooted in faith, dignity and purpose.

**Together, we can Grow QwaQwa, uplift the Basotho nation
and secure a legacy of dignity, opportunity and
culture for generations to come.**

“Re lebohile haholo.”

Thank you for walking this journey with us.

Contact Us

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