



Thuto Thebe Educational Fund | Her Royal Majesty, the Queen Mother of the RBN

Her Royal Majesty, the Queen Mother, Dr Semane Bonolo Molotlegi of the Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN) was the Founder and Patron of the Thuto Thebe Educational Fund. Thuto Thebe is a Setswana idiom, which is translated as "Education is a Shield". This is the maxim that the Queen Mother, Mmemogolo Molotlegi, firmly held to be true.

In 2005, she founded Thuto Thebe Educational Fund as the most appropriate vehicle to honour the memories of her late husband, Kgosi Edward Lebone I, and son, Kgosi Mollwane Lebone II. They too believed that education should be a tool in which the learners stand behind and become a defense of self-worth. Mmemogolo Molotlegi had passion for the encouragement and advancement of young people. She consistently applied this to her community work, dating back to the years prior to the democratic dispensation.

The objective of the Thuto Thebe Educational Fund is to improve the quality of education in targeted communities by addressing specific educational needs of South Africans for a better and more sustainable future. Some of the ongoing projects of the Thuto Thebe Educational Fund that were spearheaded by Mmemogolo include:

- Recruitment of educators in critical skills shortage subjects such as mathematics and accounting
- Provision of appropriate resources for effective learning in schools and Early Childhood Development Centres such as mobile classrooms
- Strengthen the school management structures as well as the school governing bodies to ensure effective and efficient management of schools
- Teacher development and training
- Ensure that identified schools have access to key resources such as computers and technology
- Assist schools with matric exam preparation camps
- Renovation of Science Laboratories and equipping them with lab equipment
- Clean energy and environmental awareness programmes in communities
- Rainwater harvesting and water conservation projects
- Talent identification and management
- Donation of stationery
- Awarding of bursaries