

CEO MESSAGE



Dear RBI Community –

Greetings and all best wishes for 2023!

On behalf of Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI) I would like to thank you for your support during the past year as we emerged from two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has been a particularly challenging chapter for all stakeholders involved within the education sector.

This said, it is a distinct privilege to be making a contribution to the future of our youth across all levels of their learning journey, from early childhood development (ECD) through to post-school and tertiary education.

Advancing ourselves through education, at whatever stage of our lives, is a key aspiration for everyone in society and the community. Our mission and ethos at RBI are to place education at the centre of our mindset and rationale as we continue our journey to become a 'Sustainable Learning Nation'.

At RBI, we have a unique opportunity to partner with you as our stakeholders, to make a measurable impact across the entire education pipeline, from ECD, through primary and secondary schooling, to post-school technical and vocational training and tertiary academic education.

As custodians supporting the lifelong learning journey, we can identify practical measures to address a range of challenges which prevent learners from achieving their full potential, and then design and create unique interventions to build success through scale and scope, thereby positively impacting education outcomes and contributing to the Royal Bafokeng Nation, the greater North West Province and the whole of South Africa.

At the heart of our ethos, our value-based approach supports the development of a holistic, integrated education strategy aimed at achieving excellence in educational outcomes by delivering a quality, deep-rooted, positive learning experience with each of the thousands of learners with whom we engage.

Whilst there is widespread reported evidence of the severe negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on education and schooling, with statistics confirming the setback to learners across all school grades and citing exponential drop-out rates and reducing household incomes linked to rising unemployment, the pandemic also highlighted the need to embrace change and transformation and served as a catalyst to RBI to act with a sense of urgency to regain lost ground and to deliver real progress regarding our education and development priorities. Enablers on this journey include education technology (EdTEch) and online e-learning, which hitherto were regarded as ambitious, and which have now become the new normal for information, knowledge sharing and developing competencies and expertise in many forms, including synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning methodologies.

At RBI we are clear about our vision and purpose in pursuit of social justice and upliftment of the Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN) and Community, through the provision of equitable access to quality education, and aligning with - and delivering to - the Vision encapsulated in RBN Plan 35.

As we embrace 2023, this is an ideal time to engage with us about your specific needs and aspirations, so that we can explore possibilities for collaboration and partnership in support of our learning journey in realising the vision of empowerment through education, employment and economic development, and a better quality of life for all.

Stay safe and well.

Best wishes

Simon

Simon Tankard

CEO: Royal Bafokeng Institute