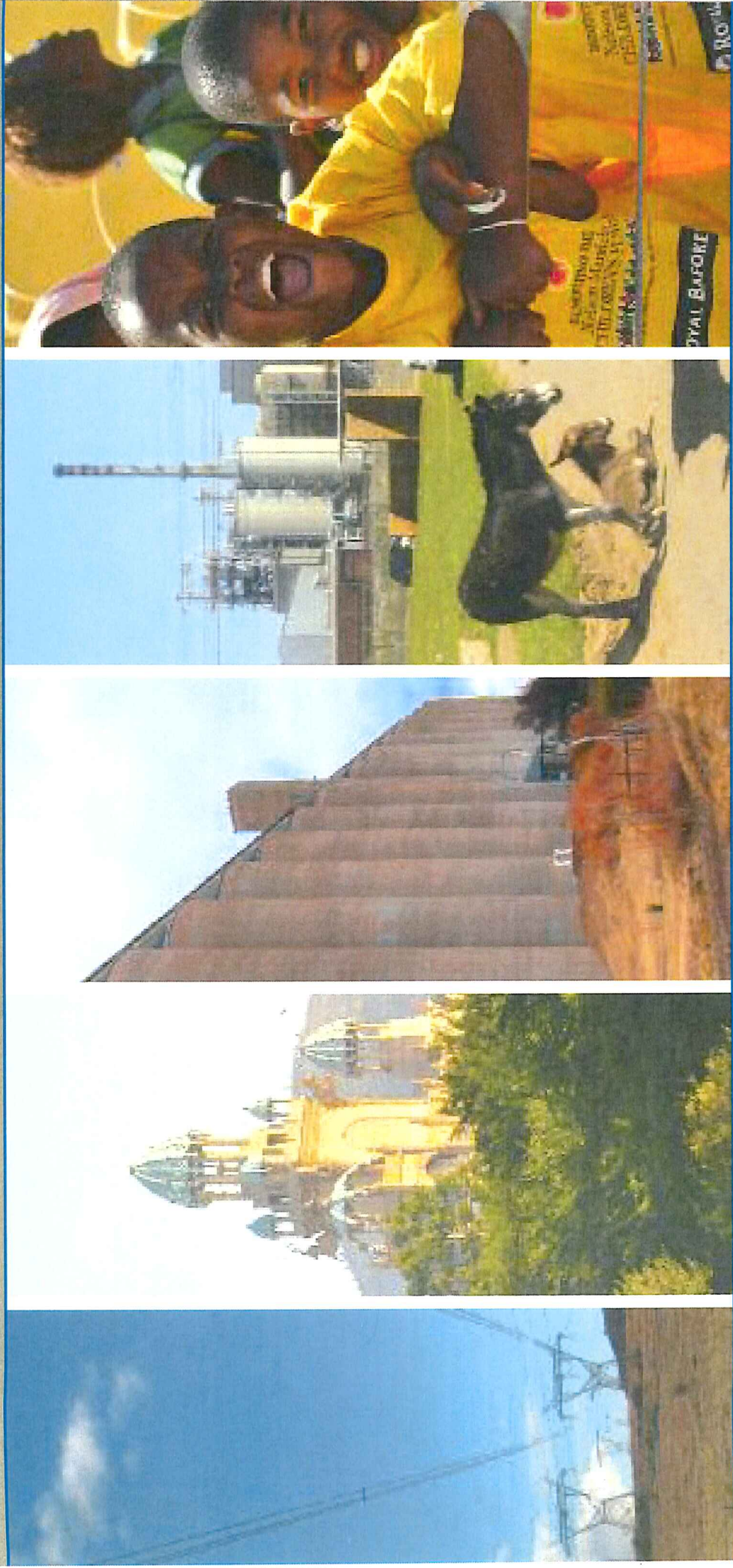
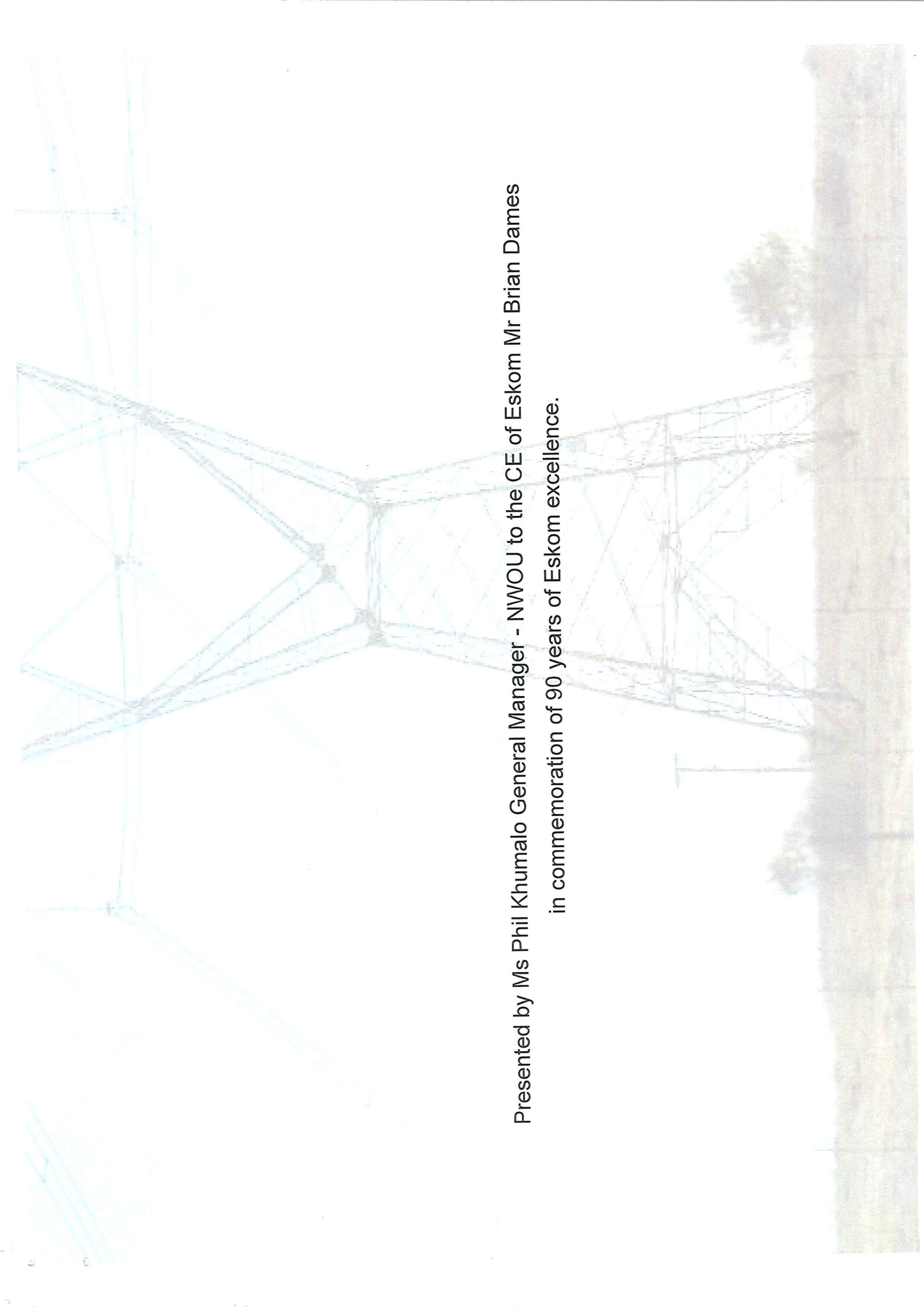


north west operating unit  
Unfolding the history of Eskom in Bokone Bophirima



1923-2013



Presented by Ms Phil Khumalo General Manager - NWOU to the CE of Eskom Mr Brian Dames  
in commemoration of 90 years of Eskom excellence.

# Acknowledgements

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# Foreword

The North West Operating Unit (NWOU) is a product of the Eskom Strategic review that took place in the second decade of the new Millennium. This review sought to reorganise the Eskom business in line with the national provincial boundaries. However, Eskom's presence within the provincial boundaries spans a number of decades.

During the period prior to the democratic elections, the electricity supply to the North West Province was supplied by Eskom and the Bophuthatswana Elec-

trical Commission (Becor) which was the electricity redistributor of the Homelands Government. After the first democratic elections of 1994, Becor's assets were transferred to Eskom.

The North West or Bokone-Bophirima in SeTswana is named for its geographical position in the country. It is the gateway to the north western Southern African Development Community (SADC) with borders into Botswana.

Prior to the Strategic Review, Eskom's



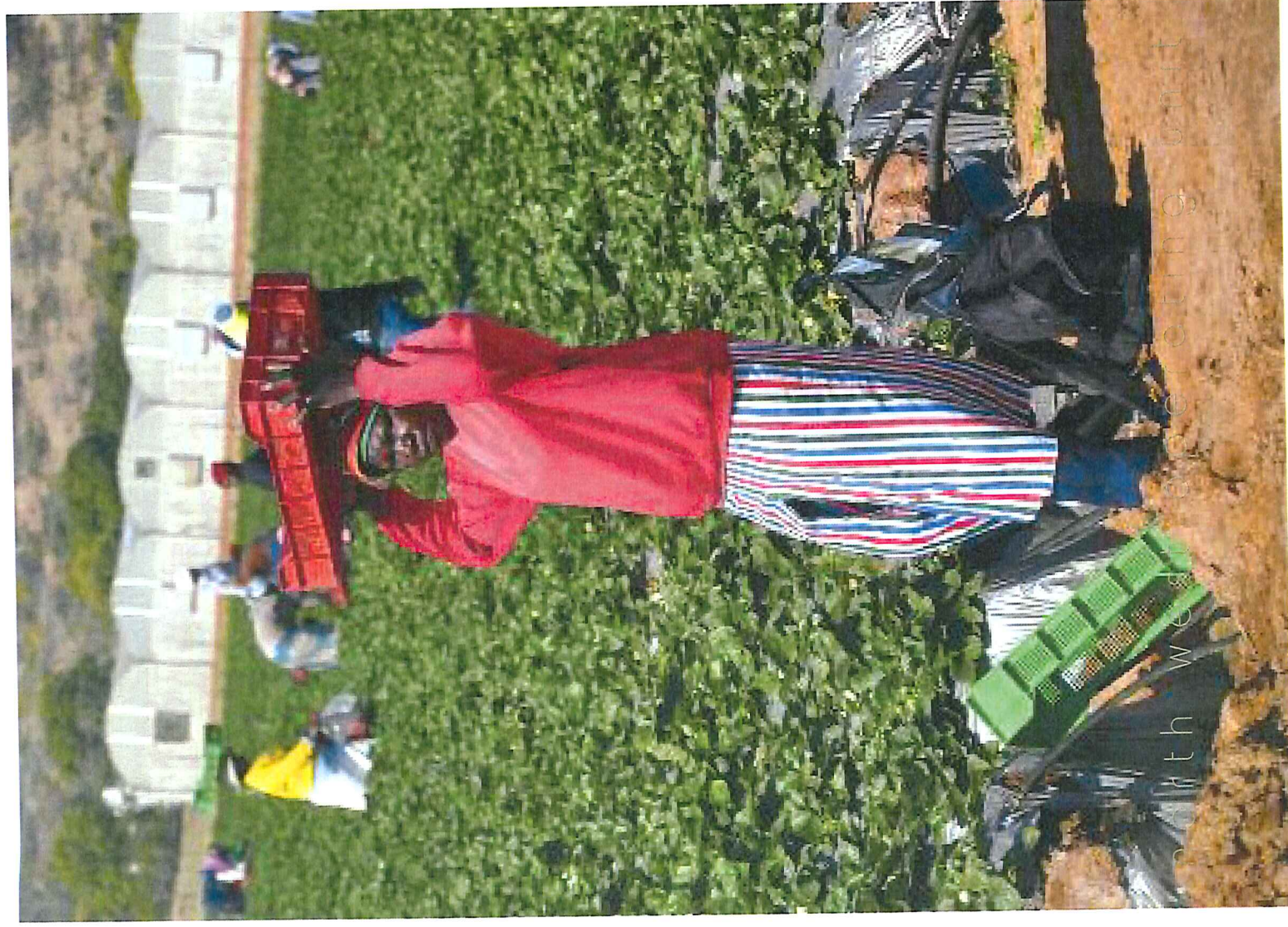
*Phil Khumalo: General Manager of Eskom North West Operating Unit.*

# foreword

distribution business was organised into six regions. The area that is now managed by the NWOU comprises of the Rustenburg (Bojanala which is Tourism in SeTswana) area which was previously part of the Northern Region and the Klerksdorp, Vryburg, Mmabatho (KVM) areas which were part of the Central Region.

The North West is a mainly rural province. The economy of this mineral-rich province is anchored by platinum mining and tourism in the Bojanala district and gold mining in the KVM district. Despite these mineral riches, it remains one of the poorest provinces in the country because of a lack of industrial development.

*Agriculture forms a large part of the economy of the North West Province, here workers are picking strawberries in the shadow of the Magaliesberg.*



# f o r e w o r d

The dedicated men and women of the Eskom NWOU are committed to building a sustainable electricity solution to grow the economy of the North West and to improve the lives of the people of the province and beyond.

The province is geared up for development with inroads being made into the beneficiation of the products of agriculture and mining. The economic plan for the province includes the road and rail infrastructure to transport goods into SADC and the rest of South Africa. It

also involves the realisation of the potential of renewable energy from fuel cells, solar and biomass.

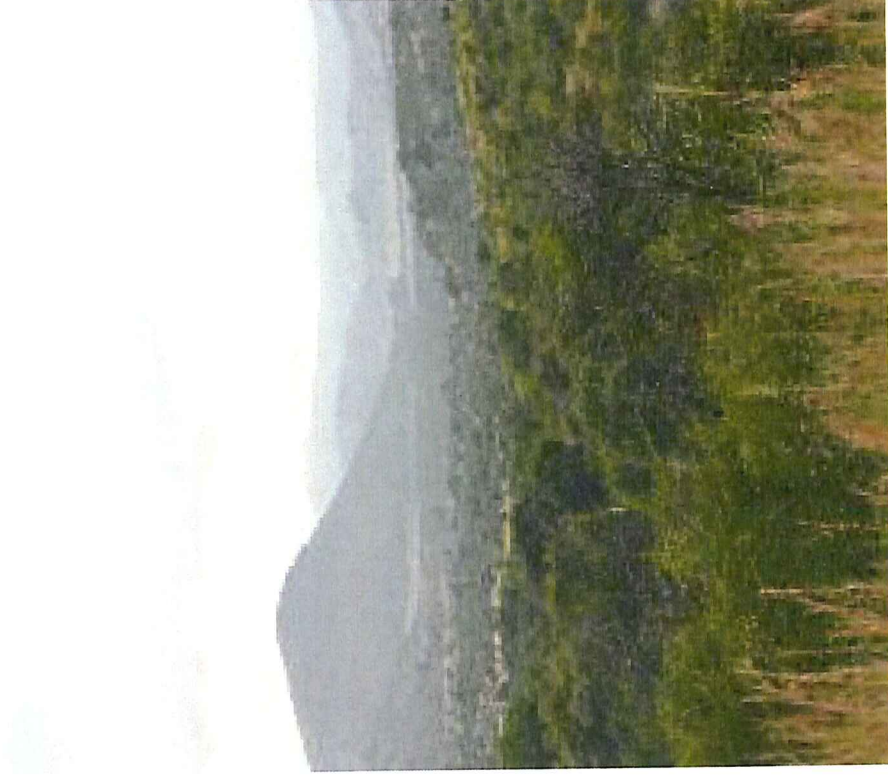
The province is also significant for Eskom in that the power supply from the new Medupi Power Station will be trans-

mitted through this area into the Northern Cape and the Western Cape. This brings opportunity for greater industrial and other development into the province.

Eskom has been pivotal to the development of the province by supplying electricity to the agricultural, mining and tourism industries in the past. Eskom will continue to be there among the pillars of growth in the province by supplying electricity to the new indus-

tries. One of the most exciting prospects is that Eskom will be part of the development of the province into a renewable energy hub for the country.

Pula...



*The Pilanesberg National Park is a major drawcard for visitors to the province.*

n o r t h w e s t o p e r a t i n g u n i t





*One of the unique annual events that happen in the north west province — The Bray Horse Race.*

n o r t h w e s t o p e r a t i n g u n i t





**North West  
Province:  
At a glance**



The North West Province was created after the end of Apartheid in 1994, and includes parts of the former Transvaal Province and Cape Province, as well as most of the former Bantustan of Bophuthatswana.

Much of the province consists of flat areas of scattered trees and grassland. The Magaliesberg mountain range in the northeast extends about 130 km from Pretoria to Rustenburg. The Vaal River flows along the southern border of the province.

Effectively forming the southern part of the Kalahari Desert, the North West Province offers some of the finest game reserves, cultural sights, archaeological treasures and entertainment resorts.

The agricultural and mining production in the North West plays a vital role in boosting the South African economy. The principal products are gold, platinum, diamonds, maize, beef and sunflower seeds.

Power to the mining and agricultural sector is supplied directly by Eskom and to the four district municipalities namely Bojanala Platinum District, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District, Ngaka Modiri Molema District and Dr Kenneth Kaunda District.

<b>LAND AREA</b>	116 320 kilometres square
<b>POPULATION</b>	3.043 million
<b>CAPITAL CITY</b>	Mafikeng
<b>LANGUAGES</b>	Setswana, English, Afrikaans
<b>CLIMATE</b>	Hot/very hot in summer. Mild/cold in winter.
<b>AIRPORTS</b>	Mafikeng, Sun city
<b>ROADS</b>	Good to fair, suitable for all vehicles
<b>RAIL AND BUS SERVICES</b>	Available throughout the North West Province.
<b>BUSINESS HOURS</b>	08h00 to 17h00
<b>INTERNET</b>	Operates countrywide
<b>CELLPHONES</b>	Major routes and main centres



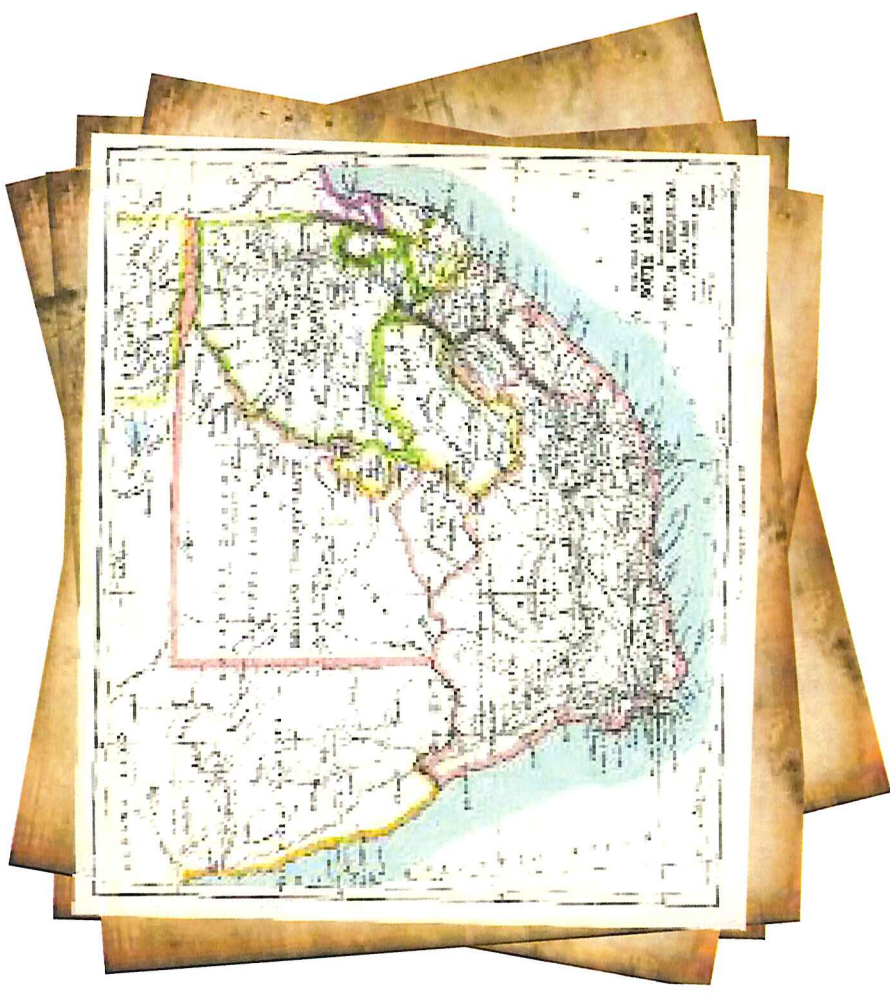
# North West Province: Historical overview

## Mafikeng and surrounds

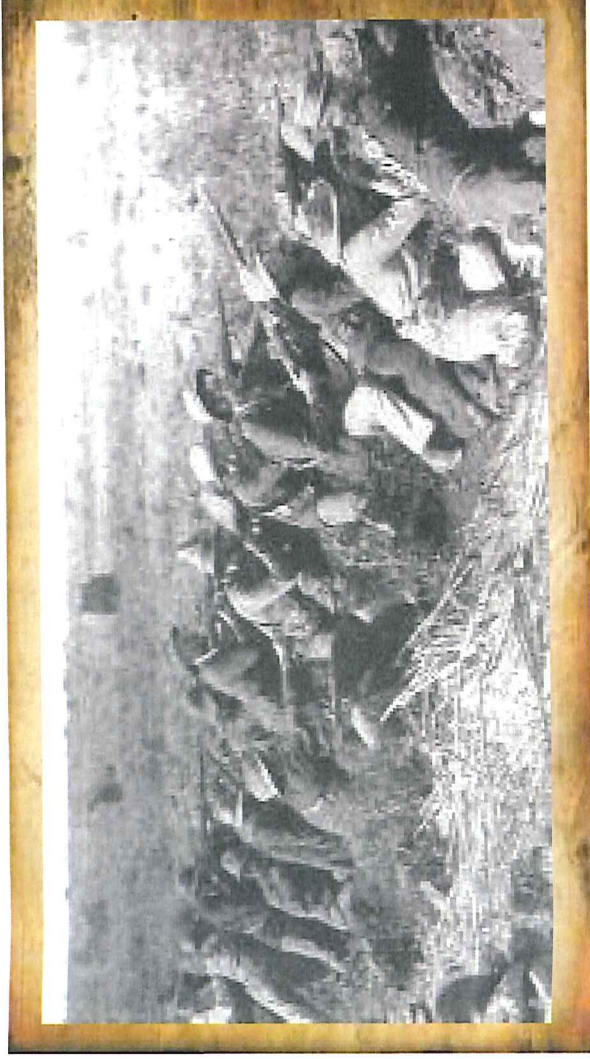
The territory known as British Bechuanaland covered an area that included the subsequent divisions of Vryburg, Mafikeng, Kuruman and Taung. The first European travellers to visit the region arrived here in 1801, and within a few years it had become a regular calling point for researchers and missionaries.

In 1882 the Republic of Goshen with its capital in Lichtenburg is founded by a group of Afrikaner farmers on land allocated to them by Chief Matlaba, of the Barolong boo Rapulana and Chief Moshete of the Barolong boo Ratlou, as reward for the Boer support in the fight against Chief Montshioa of the Barolong Boo Ratshidi in Mafikeng. The Republic was not given recognition by the Barolong Boo Ratshidi and British government. The declaration prompted the British government to send close to 5000 troops to annex the territory as British Bechuanaland. Today, the Republic of Goshen is within the province of North West.

*An 1885 map showing the Bechuanaland Protectorate prior to the creation of the crown colony of British Bechuanaland and the Heligoland Zanzibar Treaty.*







Mafikeng, (the spelling of which has changed over the years from Mafekeng to Mafikeng to Mahikeng) the capital of North West since 1994 was previously a seat of government for Bechuanaland protectorate until 1965. Although it was outside the protectorate's borders, Mafikeng served as capital of the Bechuanaland Protectorate from 1894 until 1965, when Gaborone was made the capital of what

was to become Botswana. Mafikeng briefly served as capital of the pre-independence Bantustan of Bophuthatswana in the 1970's, before the adjoining town of Mmabatho was established as capital.

Following the end of apartheid in 1994, Mafikeng and Mmabatho were merged and instated as the capital of the new North West Province.

The town of Mafikeng is the only known town to have war monuments in honour of Black (specifically the Barolong) men and women who died in the Anglo Boer War. It also has a monument honouring Chief Besele Montshiwa, head of a regiment that fought with the Boer forces during the war. The monuments were erected by the Barolong chieftaincy with funds collected from the Barolong people. The other monument is the Prince of Wales road, which was used by the Prince of Wales during his historic visit with the Barolong Boo Ratshidi.



Left to right: Land marked in yellow that became Bophuthatswana; a gold memorial coin; stamps from the Bophuthatswana homeland.

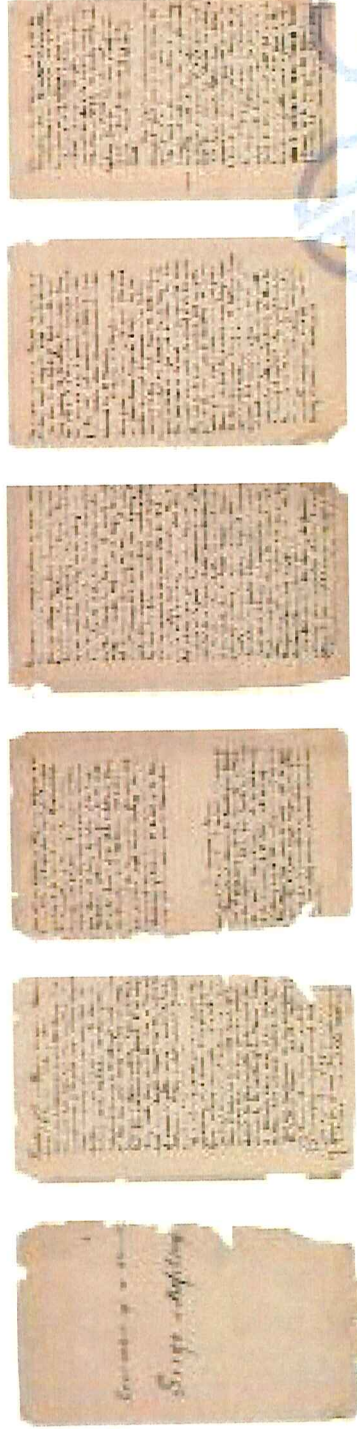


The Bophuthatswana Territorial Authority was created in 1961 with the passage of the Bantu Self-Government Act of 1959 which set out a plan called "Separate Development". This enabled the homelands to establish themselves as self-governing, quasi-independent states. In June 1972

Bophuthatswana was declared a self-governing state. Bophuthatswana's application to be declared an independent state outside the rule of South Africa was turned down in 1986. In 1993 the country's population was 2 489 347. It was estimated that in the same year, her military force

was some 4 000 soldiers.

In March 1994 Bophuthatswana was incorporated back into South Africa. The small, widespread pieces of land became part of the North West Province under Premier Edna Molewa.

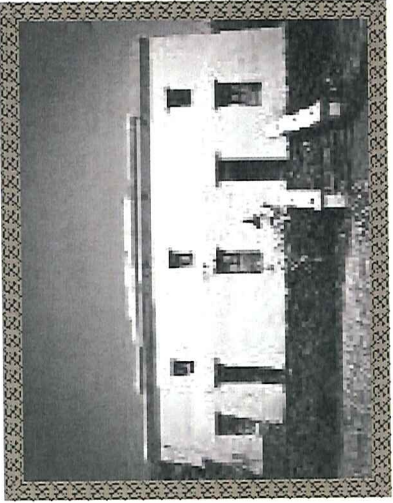


The first six pages from Sol Plaatje's diary on the Siege of Mafikeng.

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# Rustenburg



*view from one of the canons at Hunters Rest Hotel overlooking Olifantsnek Dam; Paul Kruger residence at Boekenhoutfontein; Statue of the President of the South African Republic Paul Kruger; Depiction of the battles that took place in the Magaliesberg Mountain during the second Anglo Boer War; Scottish Highland group at the foot of the Magaliesberg Mountains.*



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The Magaliesberg range of mountains dominates the southern landscape of the North West Province. Rustenburg, the largest city in this province, has significance for many groups in South Africa, and its history is complex and rich in variety. The known history of Rustenburg spans from the 15th century to the post-apartheid city, and the town has become the fastest growing city in South Africa, due to the incredibly lucrative mining industry in the region.

Founded in 1851, by burghers who together with the Voortrekker leader Andries Pretorius, had settled in the area after the defeat of Mzilikazi's army.

Rustenburg soon grew rapidly with crops and livestock thriving on the arable land and the town, a peaceful haven to people who had trekked for years was named Rustenburg – town of rest.

During the Second Boer War in 1899, Rustenburg became a battlefield. Control of the Magaliesberg Mountain Range was of great importance to both the Boer and the British forces, especially the two routes between Pretoria and Rustenburg as a result many battles, such as the battles of Buffelspoort,

Nooitgedacht and Olifantsnek were fought in the area.

Today Rustenburg is considered to be one of South Africa's fastest growing towns thanks to the discovery of Platinum in the area. As one of the host cities of the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup, Rustenburg received world wide recognition.

One of 12 cities chosen to be part of the government's Public Transport Strategy and Action Plan of 2007, Rustenburg will be rolling out a World Class public transport system with the launch of the Rustenburg Rapid Transport system (RRT) by the end of 2015 – providing quality, cheap, reliable, fast, safe and clean transport to 83% of the population of Rustenburg who rely on public transport.



*An artist's impression of the exterior view of an RRT bus station.*

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