

23^{of} 100**Kgosi Deborah
Mmadira Maloka**

Here to be Unifying

From the classroom to the throneroom: Leading with purpose and service.

For Kgosi Deborah Mmadira Maloka, leadership has always been about service. Long before she became a traditional leader, she was an educator, mentor and community builder who understood that meaningful change begins by investing in people. Born and raised in Masobe Village, Pankop, Kgosi Maloka is the eldest daughter of the late Kgosi Sello Harries Maloka and Salamina Llele Maloka. The values she inherited; love, respect, kindness, humility and unity continue to shape how she leads her community today.

Her journey began in education, where teaching became far more than a profession. In 1991, she joined Phopolo Primary School as a trainee teacher and remained there throughout her career,

eventually becoming the school's principal. Her commitment extended beyond the classroom.

She championed sport and music, served as Music Coordinator for more than a decade and contributed to educational development at district level. A passionate language educator, she continually sought ways to improve learner outcomes. Her dedication to lifelong learning was equally remarkable. While raising a family and working full-time, she obtained a Teaching Diploma, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees, followed by a Diploma in Guidance with Distinction, a Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Management. When she retired from education, her calling to serve was far from over. In September 2023, Kgosi Maloka assumed the traditional leadership of Masobe Village, becoming the "first female Kgosi of Masobe in her own right". While women had previously occupied positions within the traditional leadership structure, largely as regents, her appointment marked a significant moment for the community.

She stepped into leadership determined to honour her family's legacy while building a more united future. Her priorities include strengthening social cohesion, healing historical divisions and creating opportunities that can improve the quality of life for residents.

Her leadership now reaches beyond Masobe. As Deputy Chairperson of the Nkangala Local House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, she advocates for rural communities and contributes to efforts focused on social and economic development.

At the centre of her vision is a community where no child goes to bed hungry, young people have access

to quality education and skills, and families can participate meaningfully in economic opportunities. She believes Masobe's agricultural, non-agricultural and mineral resources can help create sustainable development that benefits its people.

From the classroom to traditional leadership, Kgosi Maloka has never stopped teaching. Today, her lesson is one of service: communities flourish when leadership is grounded in compassion, education, unity and a genuine commitment to building a better future.

Your
story
matters

