

# MPHETHE'S LONG-TERM VISION FOR BATAU

## Milton Malatse visited Batau boss

The Baobab born businessman Alton Senyane Mphethi has a long term vision in Batau Football Club, especially after giving sleepless night to the three times PSL Champions, ABSA Cup winner and currently number five in the premier Soccer league table Supersport United.

The game needed hundred and twenty minutes plus for goliath to kill David in house of pain AJ Swanepoel stadium in Ermelo during their last 32 clash of the Nedbank Cup last month. The Chairman Mphethe fell in love with football from his childhood, despite the fact that he was playing with bear feet (Kaal) foot, but he strongly believes that if had a chance to expose his talent in top teams, he would be a legendary player in the country.

He added that he does not want to see his players of Batau to feel the same pain that he felt at his time in his football career. Batau is a highly standardised club in Vodacom League that is the

same level with the PSL teams. It is the biggest challenge for John Ferreira and his coaching team to accomplish the dreams of their chairman to put Batau in the PSL and conquer Africa. Anyhow, it is only two steps ahead from Vodacom to PSL. The chairman said that there are a lot of challenges in Vodacom league because all the referees do not always follow the rules as prescribed by FIFA, especially at Enhlazine region in Mbombela.

The devastating part of it, even if SAFA can send a match commissioner to the game they fire him. And they do not want video footage to record the game in the field, they fear that will expose their incompetence. Provocation is blatant during matches by referees.

Mphethe is determined to develop the district of Msukaligwa municipality as he wants the municipality give or sell him the land in order for him to build the stadium for Batau. He aims to

build the stadium that will have all the sporting codes activities in the district, having realised that the district needs the stadium of that calibre but his dreams is still in limbo.

He added that is prepared to buy the land at a price, because he wants to build the stadium and village for Batau before God calls on him as part of the legacy for Gert Sibande. Khanyisa will reveal an exclusive story about the stadium after visiting the municipality. See full story of Batau Stadium next week. Is it a land problem or is it bureaucracy.

The ambitious man originated from a small tribal village of Ga=Mphethe in Burgersfort northwest of Polokwane, the man started schooling at Selala Primary in 1973 and he moved to Ratanang High School thereafter he decide to come to work at Ermelo mine in 1984 as a general worker. Through his leadership skills he was offered the position to become a clerk and in 1987, and later he was

retrenched from the mine.

He decided to join Ermelo taxi association, where he was elected as the chairman of the organisation. Mphethe is a man of challenges, few years later he joined Basil Read construction, but he was looking for a bigger challenges.

In 1990 he opened his own company named ASM (Alton Senyane Mphethe) Estates agency to sell houses.

Two years later he was appointed as Wesselton senior town council. Mphethe confirmed that he was fired from the town council due to the tribalism in the township. The money accumulated on his various jobs he bought a taxi that saved him until 1995 when he was elected as a PAC ward councillor, where he saved for two terms and later he was elected to be PAC provincial chairman until today. He thanked the department of education for having given him a tender to transport the pupils to school.

The leadership was always following him as in 1999 he was elected as the chairman of the Mpumalanga scholars transport. He gave the warning to the kids that disobedience in the buses will not be tolerated. Some are cutting the seats, dancing in the bus and there are employees that are influenced by the people to do wrong things here at work. He confessed that crime is beyond his control because people just come and steal all his gods Sheep and cows at Amsterdam farm. But that cannot stop him from achieving his dreams. He has over 250 employees that are full time employed in his company.

He added that all what he has is power of God, his church Dave Zion Christian Church, ancestors and his mother. He also thanked his employees that are committed to uplifting the company because they understand the need of coming to work.



Alton Senyane Mphethi

