

The Legacy of Khaiso: A Journey Through Time

Khaiso High School, located in Seshego Zone 3, Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa, is an institution with a rich legacy of academic excellence, leadership development, and community impact. Founded in the 1920s as a mission school under the Anglican Church, it has grown into a pillar of education, shaping generations of leaders, professionals, and changemakers.

1. The Origins (1920s – 1958): A Foundation of Excellence

Khaiso's story begins in the early 1920s, founded as a mission school under the Anglican Church. Its original name, *Kagiso*, meaning "peace," was adapted to *Khaiso* by the Anglican missionaries who struggled with its pronunciation. One of these missionaries was Bishop Fuller, whose name still graces Fuller Primary School today.

Initially, Khaiso operated as a boarding school, producing remarkable individuals, including the late Professor P. Mokgokong of the University of the North. Through the years, Khaiso has been shaped by the vision and leadership of many great educators

2. 1958: A New Chapter as a Day School

However, in 1958, with the introduction of the Bantu Education system, it became a day school, marking a new chapter in its evolution. During this time, Mr. S.A. Makoti served as the principal, guiding the school with integrity, dedication, and academic excellence. Mrs. Maoto Mogoroga is one of the oldest living retired teachers who started teaching in 1958 and retired on May 31, 1992.

3. The 1960s: Identity and Tradition Take Shape

The passing of Mr. S.A. Makoti in 1961 paved the way for Mr. D.M. Mphahlele, a leader who introduced the school's iconic green tunic uniform, school badge, and the prestigious green and gold blazer—a symbol of pride and excellence that continues today.

The school choir, led by Mr. S.A. Moloisi and Jerry Mojalefa, won first prize locally and represented the Northern Region at the National Competition in Springs, marking a golden era of talent and school spirit.

4. The 1970s: The Rise of a Legendary Leader & The Golden Years Under Mrs. Thini Wathini Bareng. Phatudi, affectionately known as, TWB Phatudi

A defining moment in Khaiso's history came in 1971 with the appointment of Mrs. T.W.B. Phatudi as principal—the first female principal and the longest-serving principal to lead the school and become one of the most respected educators in the country.

4.1. Her leadership was characterized by principles that remain relevant today.

1. She upheld discipline, cleanliness, and academic excellence –
2. She introduced strong leadership values of punctuality and respect that shaped generations of learners
3. She championed Creativity and Innovation – through poetry, music, and extracurricular activities, believing in holistic education that success was not just about academics but also character and confidence.
4. Khaiso became the first school to admit married women, allowing many to complete their Junior Certificate (now Grade 10) and later qualify as teachers.

4.2. The following teachers were former Learners who returned to teach after completing their teacher training: Mnr Judah Molepo, Jimmy Mojapelo, and Phala C. Mosomane. Unfortunately, they have all passed away. May their souls rest in peace, and their spirits rise in glory.

4.3. Bell tower – one of the most iconic symbols of this era was the Bell Tower. The ringing of the school bell was more than a signal. It sets the rhythm of daily life at Khaiso. The first ring signaled order and assembly, while the second ring served as a reminder to stay focused on the tasks at hand.

5. The 1980s: Growth and Expansion

By the 1980s, Khaiso had cemented its reputation as a centre of excellence. In 1984, the school moved to its current location in Seshego Zone 3, a move that symbolized progress and growth. The introduction of Form 4, which is currently known as Grade 11, marked a shift in academic structure.

6. The Remarkable Class of 1985: A Defining Moment

Under Mrs. TWB Phatudi’s leadership, the class of 1985 achieved a remarkable 100% pass rate, setting an example for future generations and a testament to the school's enduring commitment to quality education. What was so special about the class of 1985 was that

1. Mrs. Phatudi knew each learner by name, fostering a strong personal connection that made Learners feel valued.
2. She understood the dynamics of each family and ensured parental involvement in education.
3. While she enforced discipline, it always came with a nurturing, motherly touch.
4. She pushed every Learner to excel, ensuring they were ready for the world beyond Khaiso.
5. She instilled these values as integral parts of the school’s ethos.

Mrs. TWB Phatudi was not just a principal; she was a mentor and an inspiration to all.

7. The Enduring Legacy of Khaiso

After decades of shaping young minds, Mrs. TWB Phatudi gracefully retired in 1991, leaving behind a school deeply rooted in excellence, discipline, and tradition.

In the transformative years of 1990 and 1991, a new breed of visionaries emerged among the learners. Inspired by the ideals instilled by Mrs. Phatudi, a group of ambitious Learners boldly decided to carry forward her legacy.

In 2010, they established the Khaiso Foundation, a noble initiative spearheaded by luminaries such as Advocate Khupi Ramarumo, the insightful Mr. Tumi Tsehlo, the dynamic Mr. Serokolo Mphahlele—affectionately known as PONA—and the dedicated Mr. Madimetja wa ga Chepape, among others.

Together, they embarked on a mission to honor and perpetuate the values that had been so deeply ingrained in their educational journey.

8. Challenges, Ups and Downs

Khaiso High School, like any other organization, has faced its share of challenges. Over the years, it has experienced ups and downs, with periods of success and difficulty that tested its very foundation and spirit.

9. Fast forward – 2016 to date

When Principal Mosima Teffu took the helm at Khaiso in 2016, she encountered countless obstacles that could have deterred a lesser leader. However, armed with her extraordinary skills and determination, she transformed these hurdles into stepping stones.

Her visionary leadership not only addressed the immediate challenges but also cultivated an enduring culture of resilience and strength within the school community, inspiring both Learners and staff to rise to new heights.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the parents, guardians, the School Management Team (SMT), the School Governing Body, and especially Principal Teffu. Her visionary leadership has guided the school to new heights. Together, they achieved an impressive overall pass rate **of 99.3%!** This milestone sets a strong standard for future success. We celebrate this achievement and look forward to a bright future!

10. Khaiso Today: A Lasting Legacy

Khaiso has been more than just a school—it has been a community, a place of discipline, ambition, and lifelong learning. The legacy of its past principals, teachers, and learners continues to shine, inspiring new generations to carry forward its proud tradition.

To the Principal, Madam Mosima Teffu, the School Management Team, the entire Staff complement, the Learners, the School Governing Body, and last but not least, the parents, guardians, and community at large, we say: *Long Live Khaiso!* May this institution continue to shape the future for many years to come.