

## **BeingAfrican, LLC Curriculum-Lesson 16**

### **Objectives**

**Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:**

- 1. Learn Setswana names and their meanings.**
  - 2. Understand some life situations Setswana names are deprived from.**
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### **The culture of Setswana names**

Batswana have the habit /culture of naming their children relative to what is happening in their lives at the time or even prior to falling pregnant. Therefore most names tell a story in the history of the family or that of the parents' relationship. Here are some of the names to illustrate this:

- o Kgomotso- Meaning “Condolences”, usually given a child born after the passing of a family member
- o Tlhokgamo- Meaning “harmony”. A name usually given to a child born after a long period of trying by the couple...it brings harmony and peace to the couple...a sense of satisfaction
- o Moemedi- Meaning “representative or replacement”- its a name usually given to a son or grandson born immediately after the death of a father, grandfather or close family relative.

**Here are some common names often given with a religious reference to God-Modimo**

Goitsemodimo	God knows
Omogolo	God's great
Tiroyamodimo/ Tiroyaone	God's work/ doing
Gofamodimo/ Gofaone	God is the giver/provider
Kefilwe/ Refilwe	Given by God

**Challenge Task:** Find out the meanings/messages behind other ten (10) Setswana names you have heard among the people you know.

**Also answer the questions below:**

- o What does your surname mean?
- o Find out as many names of your extended family relatives as you can. Any Setswana ones??
- o What do they mean??

### Word building- increase Setswana vocabulary

Learn Setswana names and their meanings. See illustration below and give own examples

Name	Meaning
Kenalemang	With whom am I?
Mmusi	The Ruler
Mofenyi	Victor

### The culture of Setswana names

Here is a fun fact:

**Setswana names carry meanings. Names usually refer to:**

- 1. Circumstances**
- 2. Feelings**
- 3. Namesakes**

### Names given based on different circumstances and experiences

Setswana	English
Goitsewang	Who knows?
Bontumetse	Life/pregnancy has accepted me

Duduetsang	Ullulate and make it known or make it clear. Disclose your happiness
Amogelang/ Kamogelo	Receive/Accept
Phenyo	Victory

### Names given based on feelings

Feelings	English
Tsitsi	Mercy
Boitumelo	Joy
Lorato	Love
Kealeboga/Realeboga	Gratitude
Tumelo/ Tumisang	Faith

### Practise exercise

- What are the namesake Setswana names in your family?
- What do they mean?
- What does your surname mean

**Developers:** Can we build an interactive database of names and meanings per examples above? Can the participants add ongoing?