



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

Speech

**By the Deputy Minister
of
Works and Transport**

Hon. Sankwasa James Sankwasa

at

The 10th Joint Law Enforcement Official Opening,

Swakopmund, Namibia

25 September 2019

Director of Ceremonies

Honourable Governors

Your Worships the Mayors here present.

Captains of Industries

TKC Co-Chairpersons

The TKC Executive Directors

The Erongo Regional Police Commander

**Other Police Commanders and law enforcement
Officers**

Senior Officials from all members States

Members of the media

Our man and women in uniform

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to say "Good morning to you all".

It gives immense pleasure to stand before you all today to make welcoming remarks intended to officially open this august gathering. It is a well-known fact that TKC is an initiative geared towards economic development of the three member States of Botswana, Namibia and RSA.

The main goal of establishing this initiative was and continues to be:

The provision of a direct trade route from Walvis Bay and Windhoek in central Namibia, through Botswana, to Pretoria in Gauteng province in South Africa, which was officially opened in 1998. Given this time frame of approximately 22 years challenges us to take stock of what has been the economic achievement of this initiative over this period, we need to examine the way we do business on this route starting with our attitude towards customers as we are internal customers to each other as member States. How long does it take the transporter to have all clearances and passport control services at our borders? What about our road and rail infrastructure? How safe are our truckers and other operators on this route? How about the availability of modern technology required in managing current business activities?

I am posing these questions for us to appreciate the fact that we are daily experiencing the ever-changing business world challenges that we must without fail positively response to in the shortest possible time frame with the right attitude of making business.

**Director of Ceremonies, Dear participants,
Honourable Governors**

The TK Corridor includes railway lines from Walvis Bay as far as Gobabis in Namibia, and from Johannesburg as far as Lobatse in Botswana. Connecting the two railway lines has been discussed since 2010, and an agreement between the two countries was signed in 2014, to operationalise the project. In terms of the MOU Namibia agreed to host the TKC Secretariat. It is, however, lamentable that in terms of the MOU signed between Namibia and Botswana, requiring Namibia to provide proper office accommodation which could demonstrate the seriousness of this economic initiative, Namibia has failed to provide adequate office accommodation. What we have is a small rented office space in the TransNamib building, which is far from being adequate. This demonstrate a lack of seriousness and poor attitude of doing business on the part of those entrusted to ensure the execution of such agreed terms.

To ensure the expansion and extension of economic development the Maputo Corridor provides an onwards

connection from Gauteng to Maputo in Mozambique. Together these corridors form a unique road connection between Walvis Bay on the Atlantic and Maputo on the Indian Ocean, where the connected regions becomes known as the Walvis Bay–Botswana–Gauteng–Maputo development corridor. All these are intended to achieve economies of scales being the cost advantages that enterprises obtain due to their scale of operation with cost per unit output decreasing with increasing scale of sale.

**Director of Ceremonies, Dear participants,
Honourable Governors**

It is an indisputable fact that good and well-functioning roads and railroad infrastructures plays an important role in shaping Regional Integration and Economic growth. Based on the forgoing the Namibian government has undertaken and still foresees the development of road and railroad infrastructure where it is currently busy with the:

- Windhoek-Okahandja Dual Carriageways Road; (Ongoing), Windhoek-Hosea Kutako International Airport Dual Carriage Road; (Ongoing), Swakopmund

- Walvis Bay Dual Carriageway Road; (Ongoing), Karibib - Usakos - Swakopmund Road; (to start soon), Rehabilitation of Gobabis - Trans Kalahari Border Post. (Envisaged) and the road resurfacing programme (on going).

To ensure an improved Maritime and coast management, the port of Walvis Bay development project that commenced in May 2014 has been completed and was inaugurated in August 2019. It is believed that this project will bring more opportunities for the TKC family and other land locked countries in SADC. For example, both Botswana and Zimbabwe have established fully operational dry ports providing for parking bays and facilities for general housing as well as the potential to develop specialised warehousing.

Director of Ceremonies,

The above projects signify our commitment to TKC, SADC and indeed the Africa we want. All these projects are not only for the 2.3 million Namibian but the above 300

million SADC inhabitants of which TKC is expected to play a significant role.

Lastly **Director of Ceremonies, Honourable Governors**, allow me, on behalf of the Namibian Government, to welcome you to Namibia –please enjoy our good hospitality since the most expensive commodity we provide in Namibia is peace and security, that is based on a good and rich historical relationships existing within and between our three countries. With this few words let declare this 10th Joint Law Enforcement official open

I THANK YOU