



TKCS

TRANS KALAHARI
CORRIDOR SECRETARIAT

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REMARKS BY THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT HONOURABLE JOHN MUTORWA AT THE TKCMC HANDING OVER CEREMONY

Minister of Transport from South Africa, Dr Bonginkosi Nzimande

**Minister of Transport and Communication from Botswana here
represented by the DPS, Mr Garekwe Mojaphoko**

**Hon. Deputy Minister of Works and Transport, Mr. James
Sankwasa**

Permanent Secretary, Mr Willem Goeiemann

TKCS Executive Director, Mr Leslie Mpofu

Co - Chairs here present

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to be making my maiden address at the TKCMC Council of Ministers meeting whereupon I will at the same time be handing over the chairmanship of this critical Corridor Management Institution to South Africa. My dear colleagues, our governments through our fore bearers had a great vision of developing corridors so as to link up Africa. The Linking Africa idea was born out of the realisation that for Africa to have any chance of bargaining meaningfully at the level of global value chains, and to trade meaningfully with the rest of the world, we need to earnestly think about our economic prospects beyond the confines of the senseless borders that were imposed on all of us by the colonisers. Linking Africa is essentially concerned with trade and transport regulatory frameworks and thus will result in deeper regional integration.

Namibia assumed the Chairmanship of the TKCMC in 2010. According to the Rules of Procedure of the TKCMC, this assumption of





the chairmanship was supposed to be for two (2) years. This therefore implies that in 2012, Namibia should have handed over the chairmanship to South Africa. This unfortunately did not materialize with the result that Namibia has held on to the chairmanship for a record eight (8) years.

There were a number of reasons, which made it impossible for us to hand over the chairmanship to South Africa. One such reason was the unexpected resignation of the Executive Director (ED) of the Trans Kalahari Corridor Secretariat (TKCS).

The unprecedented delay in the appointment of the new Executive Director, further compounded the situation. Several failed attempts to convene a meeting of the TKCMC Council of Ministers further aggravated the situation. Constant changes at Ministerial level in all three participating member states added to the bulging layer of delays in convening the meeting. That notwithstanding I am delighted that finally the day has dawned for Namibia at long last handover the Chairmanship of the TKCMC to South Africa.

In doing so, I wish the flag the following highlights :

When the new ED, Mr. Leslie Mlungisi Mpofu was appointed, he was tasked to accomplish the following :

1. The accreditation of the TKCS;
2. Development of the TKCMC Strategy and Implementation Plan;
and
3. The filling of existing vacancies.





I am happy to inform you that some of these objectives have been realised. A hosting agreement was developed by the TKCS and this agreement was signed on 08 September 2015. The Republic of Namibia accredited the TKCS on 07 October 2015 thereby enabling TKCS to be recognized as an inter-governmental organization and enjoy full diplomatic immunities and privileges.

The process to develop the TKCMC Strategy and Implementation Plan was set in motion and was completed in May 2016. The strategy aims at achieving a common transport area. This in conformity with vision therefore TKC's vision which is to be ***the leading corridor in trade facilitation for socio-economic integration and development.*** The strategic plan underpins the following strategic pillars or themes:

1. Organisation Efficiency;
2. Border Management;
3. Stakeholder Management; and
4. Safety and Security.

The following strategic objectives were identified as key:

1. Improve stakeholder relations
2. Enhance stakeholder capacity
3. Improve road safety and security on the TKC
4. Ensure compliance to the transport regulatory framework
5. Improve road transport infrastructure
6. Create a conducive working environment
7. Ensure responsive border regulatory framework
8. Improve border infrastructure
9. Attract and retain Secretariat for TKCMC - Public Private Partnership qualities and experienced staff





10. Improve ICT; and
11. Improve financial status and management of the organisation.

I am of the firm view that in order to achieve the aims and objectives of this strategy, the TKCS need sustained political will and support from all Member States. Such support will be necessary in ensuring that the Secretariat is provided with a responsive organizational structure, sound performance management system and a healthy financial standing!

I must state that most of these objectives have been achieved , save for the filling of vacancies which continues to is lag behind. I therefore wish to appeal to you dear colleagues to do all in your powers to ensure that the vacant positions are filled. For our countries to derive the benefits of the TKCMC MOU, it is imperative for us to have a functional and well resourced the Secretariat!

In the interest of time I will not delve into further details and will provide you with my handover report.

At this juncture, it suffices for me to invite to the podium my dear colleague, Honorable Minister of Transport of South Africa, Dr. Bonginkosi Nzimande, to hand over the baton. As Namibia, we are delighted to be handing over to South Africa. I wish you the best during your tenure as Chair of the TKCMC.

I THANK YOU!

