



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

BY

HONOURABLE VEIKKO NEKUNDI, MP

MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT

TKR JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE

MEETING

MAUN, BOTSWANA

15 AUGUST 2025

HONORABLE NOAH SALAKAE, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, BOTSWANA

HIS EXCELLENCY PHEMELO RANKORO, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MS. LOIDE PAULUS, CHARGE D'AFFAIRS OF THE HIGH COMMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA (REPRESENTING THE HIGH COMMISSIONER)

Mr. TITUS NDOVE, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, NAMIBIA

MR, KGAKGAMELO KEN KETSHAJWANG, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, BOTSWANA

Mr. JONAS SHEELONGO, DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR TRANSPORT IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, NAMIBIA

MR. JOHANNES TSIMAKO, DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY FOR TRANSPORT IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE, BOTSWANA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF STATE OWNED ENTRESPRISES PRESENT

ALL MEMBERS OF THE JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE AND JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE PRESENT

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA

DEAR COLLEAGUES

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN

Good morning,

Allow me first and foremost, Honorable Minister, to thank you for warmly welcoming the Namibian delegation to Maun, for us to deliberate on matters of mutual benefit to our citizenry in our usual fraternal and cordial tradition.

It is both an honour and a privilege to be back in the sisterly country of Botswana, as we mark another milestone in our collective journey toward the transformative project that is the Trans- Kalahari Railway.

We are gathered here today to review the progress made on this project that is also an initiative of immense strategic value to both Botswana and Namibia, and indeed to the entire SADC region.

The TKR is more than just a railway project, it is a strategic instrument that will unlock regional trade, create jobs, and stimulate investment across Namibia, Botswana and beyond.

Through this partnership, with our Botswana counterpart, we are building more than infrastructure. We are building a legacy of cooperation, mutual benefit and regional integration as envisioned by the founding fathers of our great nations, the SADC protocols and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Feasibility Study, to my understanding, means the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the

resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success. Ultimately, it seeks to help Project Sponsors with the cost of researching their proposed project or new business idea to see if it could be viable and sustainable.

Therefore, our next step is to reach firm a conclusion about our project as well as soliciting the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success

Having said that, I am pleased to note that;

The Feasibility studies are in progress and that the bilateral cooperation on the project between our sister countries remains strong, with joint committees meeting regularly and key deliverables achieved timeously in line with the project milestones.

As we will be approaching the next phase of securing private sector investment, finalizing financial models and ensuring regulatory and operational readiness; let us remain committed to delivering this project through a transparent, Public – Private Partnership that brings value to our nations. Our undertakings must include Sustainable Development, in practical terms, and must ensure that the operation is structured in such a manner that concrete positive actions towards better sustainability and mainstreaming feature throughout. It is important that Environmental matters must also be taken into consideration at all stages of the design, development and implementation. Our practical implementation phase must be structured to have minimal environmental damage, if any at all.

I urge all stakeholders to remain aligned, transparent and focused. The success of this project hinges on our continued cooperation, clear

communication and unwavering commitment to our shared vision as reiterated by our two Heads of State in their meeting in Gaborone held on the 15th May 2025.

In closing, let me reaffirm our government's commitment to the successful delivery of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project. Let us continue to work together with purpose and urgency.

Once again, I look forward to fruitful discussions today.

Kea Leboga! (Thank you)