

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (JMC) MEETING OF THE TRANS-KALAHARI RAILWAY PROJECT, 15 AUGUST 2025 - MAUN, BOTSWANA

1. At the invitation of Honourable Noah S.L.M. Salakae, MP, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI) of the Republic of Botswana, the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project was convened in Maun, Botswana, on 15 August 2025.
2. The meeting was Co-Chaired by Honourable Noah S.L.M. Salakae, MP, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure (MTI) of the Republic of Botswana, and Honourable Veikko Nekundi, MP, Minister of Works and Transport of the Republic of Namibia, underscoring the continued commitment of both countries to the successful implementation of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project.
3. Hon. Salakae was accompanied by Mr. Kgakgamalo Ken Ketshajwang, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Co-Chair of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC); Mr. Johannes Tsimako, Deputy Permanent Secretary (MTI) and Co-Chair of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC); Mr. Phemelo Mbi Rankoro, High Commissioner of Botswana to Namibia; Mr. Baboloki Phuthego, Acting General Manager of Botswana Railway and other Senior Government Officials.
4. Hon. Nekundi was accompanied by Mr. Titus Ndove, Executive Director of the Ministry of Works and Transport and Co-Chair of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC); Mr. I-Ben Nashandi, Executive Director of the National Planning Commission; Mr. Jonas Sheelongo, Deputy Executive Director and Co-Chair of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC); Mr. Goms Manette, Executive Director, Deputy Auditor General; Ms. Loide Paulus, Charge D’Affaires ad interim of the High Commission of Namibia to Botswana; Mr. Desmond Van Jaarsveld CEO of TransNamib Holdings Limited, Mr. Hippy Tjivikua, CEO of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group, and other Senior Government Officials.

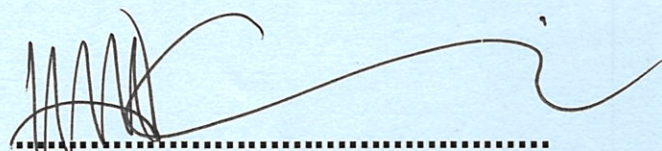
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5. The JMC commenced with the Ministers from both countries expressing appreciation for the work undertaken by the Senior Officials of JTC and JSC. The Honourable Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together to ensure the successful realization of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project.
6. The JMC welcomed the progress achieved since its last sitting in Kasane, Botswana. The deliverables achieved from 23 May 2025 to 14 August 2025. are as follows:
 - i. The Inception Report was approved on 30 June 2025.
 - ii. Approval for a benchmarking exercise, scheduled for September 2025, was granted on 23 July 2025.
 - iii. The Needs Assessment and Solution Options report was submitted in August 2025.
7. The two Ministers further noted that the project is on track and within budget in line with the approved Roadmap.
8. Hon. Nekundi expressed his appreciation to Hon. Salakae for the warm hospitality extended to him and the Namibian delegation during their stay in Maun. He further extended an invitation to Hon. Salakae to attend the next JMC meeting, scheduled to be hosted by Namibia in November 2025.
9. The two Ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to advancing the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project as a strategic infrastructure initiative, aimed at enhancing regional connectivity, trade, and socio-economic development between Botswana, Namibia, and the wider Southern African region.

ISSUED AT MAUN, BOTSWANA, ON 15 AUGUST 2025



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For the Republic of Botswana
Honourable Noah S.L.M Salakae, MP
Minister of Transport and Infrastructure



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For the Republic of Namibia
Honourable Veikko Nekundi, MP
Minister of Works and Transport