

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ ON THE OCCASION OF THE JOINT MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (JMC) MEETING OF THE TRANS- KALAHARI RAILWAY (TKR) PROJECT, 12 DECEMBER 2025 – VON BACH DAM RESORT, OKAHANDJA, NAMIBIA

1. At the invitation of Honourable Veikko Nekundi, MP, Minister of Works and Transport of the Republic of Namibia, the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project convened its Meeting on 12 December 2025 at Von Bach Dam Resort, in Okahandja, Namibia.

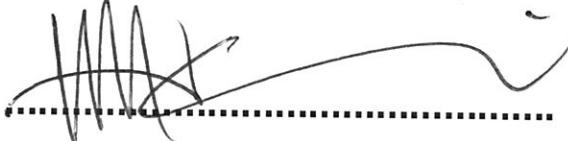
The meeting was Co-Chaired by Honourable Veikko Nekundi, MP, Minister of Works and Transport of the Republic of Namibia and Honourable Noah S.L.M. Salakae, MP, Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Botswana, underscoring the continued commitment of both countries in ensuring the successful implementation of the Trans-Kalahari Project.

2. Hon. Nekundi was accompanied by, Mr. Jonas Sheelongo, Executive Director, Ministry of Works and Transport and Co-Chair of the Joint Steering Committee (JSC), H.E. Ms. Elizabeth N. Kakukuru, High Commissioner of Namibia to Botswana, Mr. Desmond van Jaarsveld, Chief Executive Officer of TransNamib and Mr. Andrew Kanime, Chief Executive Officer of Namport and other Senior Government Officials.
3. Hon. Salakae was accompanied by Ms Agnes Mothobi, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Co-Chair of the JSC; Mr. Johannes Tsimako and Co-Chair of the Joint Technical Committee (JTC); H.E. Mr Phemelo Mbi Rankoro, High Commissioner of Botswana to Namibia; Mr. Dominic R. Ntwaagae, Care-Taker General Manager of Botswana Railways; as well as officials from the Trans-Kalahari Corridor Secretariat, Sea Rail Botswana and Senior Government Officials.

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4. The Meeting reviewed progress on the implementation of key project components as it relates to the project schedule and Road Map, since the last JMC meeting held in August 2025, and noted with appreciation the following deliverables:
 - The 5 November 2025 approval of the Needs Assessment and Solutions Options Assessment Report by the JMC.
 - Commencement of the following activities – Technical and Engineering Assessment, including procurement of WORLDDEM Neo data, hydrological assessments, and geotechnical analyses.
 - Benchmarking mission to the Lobito Corridor, undertaken from 22–26 September 2025, and welcomed insights gained regarding concession models, regulatory capacity, and stakeholder due diligence processes.
 - Participation of the Trans-Kalahari Railway Project Management Office (TKR-PMO) and the Consultant at the Luanda Financing Summit (28–31 October 2025), and welcomed ongoing engagements with AUDA-NEPAD and DFIs to explore possible technical and financing assistance for the project.
5. The Hon. Ministers considered the revised project schedule extending completion of the feasibility study by two (2) months from April 2026 to June 2026.
6. The Co-Chairs expressed appreciation to the JTC and the JSC for their valuable contributions and reaffirmed the shared commitment by the member states in advancing the TKR Project as a transformative, multi-commodity regional corridor that strengthens trade, logistics connectivity, and socio-economic integration within the SADC region.
7. Hon. Salakae expressed his profound gratitude to Hon. Nekundi for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and his delegation.
8. Hon. Nekundi expressed appreciation to Hon. Salakae for joining him to convene and Co-Chair the JMC in Namibia, and further extended an invitation for him to attend the next JMC, to be held in, Swakopmund, Namibia, February 16-20, 2026.

ISSUED AT OKAHANDJA, NAMIBIA, ON 12 DECEMBER 2025



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



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