



# Newsletter

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# ARMFA Set on Improving Continental Integration Through Enhanced Road Network

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) hosted a delegation of about fifteen leaders of Road Fund Agencies across Southern Africa to a 3-day African Road Maintenance Fund Association (ARMFA), Southern Africa Focal Group Meeting in Windhoek from 29th January. The delegation deliberated on road development needs and challenges experienced in their respective countries and the sub-region. The Southern Africa Focal Group comprises Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Lesotho, Mozambique and Madagascar.

ARMFA is a non-political and a non-profit making association that was founded in the year 2003 in Libreville,

Gabon. ARMFA's main reason for being is to form a platform and a network for experience and information sharing on best road maintenance practices in Africa; to discuss and find opportunities on funding options; to promote and strengthen links between members of African Road Maintenance Funds; and to ensure that Road Funds achieve sustainability in funding and functions. ARMFA is composed of 34 Anglo and Francophone countries. Mr Ali Ipinge, Chief Executive Officer of the RFA was elected to the Vice-Presidency of the Association in February 2018.

To ensure a coordinated management of ARMFA, member countries have been clustered into four regional focal groups that include the West African Focal Group; the Southern African Focal Group; the Central African Focal



Group and the East African Focal Group. Each of these focal groups meet regularly to discuss issues of mutual interest for their respective regions, which is later shared during the association's annual conference. The resolutions of this conference are then presented for discussion and adoption at the association's Annual General Meeting.

During the official opening of the Southern African Focal Group meeting, The RFA Board Chairperson, Mr Penda Ithindi, on behalf of Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance, emphasised the need to strengthen partnership

and bring about investment in strategic road infrastructure to enhance continental integration and facilitate intra-African trade. "As officials and experts in the road sector, you are called upon to find solutions, both financial and technical, that will ensure that the countries of Southern Africa and Africa at large, become better interconnected, that our people should be able to travel across borders and move goods needed for improved services efficiently and cost effectively. This, in essence, promotes trade and economic growth" said Mr Ithindi.





## • RFA hosts 17th ARMFA AGM

Over 120 stakeholders and policy makers from 34 African countries, gathered in Swakopmund for the 17th Africa Road Maintenance Fund Association (ARMFA) AGM hosted by the Road Fund Administration (RFA).

**The weeklong annual forum, which opened on Monday, March 11th under the theme: “Sustainable Road Infrastructure: Impact on Regional Integration and Free Trade in Africa”, provides stakeholders with a unique opportunity and platform to discuss matters of common interest, in order to rise in unity towards road network interconnectedness amongst African countries.**

Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance officially opened the conference, which was also attended by Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable John Mutorwa; Mr Souleymane Traore, ARMFA President; Eng. Jacob Ruwa, ARMFA First Vice President; and RFA Chief Executive Officer and ARMFA Second Vice President Mr Ali Ipinge.

In his keynote speech Honourable Schlettwein stated that, “we are poised on the cutting edge of the fourth industrial revolution, with the digital economy, technological innovation, and the smart automotive industry demanding

a new set of skills. Being the main driving force, we should not fail to invest in road infrastructure for the future that embraces the new era of technological innovations. Financing constitutes the means of implementing global and continental development aspirations, with domestic resources mobilisation as the central pillar for long-term sustainability,” the Minister explained.

In his address, Ipinge said an efficient road infrastructure is an “economic growth enabler” and one of the key pillars in the logistics chain, enabling trade, integration and the movement of people. Economic development and social transformation cannot be fostered efficiently in the absence of well-developed and well-maintained roads, he said, adding that as the host organisation, he trusts that Namibia as well the African continent will gain long-term benefits from the meeting.

Ipinge also pointed out that ARMFA has come a long way since its establishment in 2003 in Libreville, Gabon, and has grown from 18 founding members to 34 member countries. Furthermore, good progress has been made since the organisation adopted the key resolutions in Ethiopia at its AGM last year. Those resolutions included ARMFA cementing its position as a key partner of the African Union, for the effective management of road infrastructure development, leading to economic growth



# Ikumwe Combined School Receives Computer Equipment

In addition to effectively and sustainably carrying out its mandate, the Road Fund Administration (RFA) has a responsibility to create social value for its stakeholders by contributing towards the socio-economic development of the communities in which it operates and in line with national developmental goals.

In view of this, the RFA donated two laptops and two printers to Ikumwe Combined School, located 49km east of Katima Mulilo in the Zambezi Region, and an additional cash donation of N\$10,000 towards the school's development fund. The donation was officially handed over to the school by the RFA's CEO, Mr Ali Ipinge on 15 February 2019.

The donation came in the wake of a burglary at the school in which computer hardware and related items were lost. This adversely affected the operations and performance of the school, because the teachers had to reproduce large quantities of study material by hand.

Receiving the donation on behalf of the school, Mr Kamwi Albius Milinga the school Principal, applauded the RFA for the support it has given the school by assisting in recouping the essential equipment required at the school citing that

the donation will benefit the school in so many ways and will be put to good use.

In line with the RFA's Corporate Social Responsibility Policy (CSR), which recognises education as one of the priority areas, the gesture denotes the RFA's commitment to support the initiatives that are aimed at strengthening education in Namibia.



Mr Kamwi Albius Milinga, the School Principal of Ikumwe Combined School receives the donation from Mr. Ali Ipinge, RFA's CEO.

# RFA Supports Remedial Educational Initiative

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) once again reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the empowerment of underprivileged communities in line with Namibia's 5th Development Plan (NDP5), Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) and Vision 2030 by supporting EduSense's pilot programme with a sponsorship of N\$ 96 000, geared at improving the academic performance of students in the Oshikoto region.

EduSense Namibia came into action following the launch of "Friends of Education in Namibia Special Initiative" (FENSI), by the Minister of Education Honourable Katrina Hanse-Himarwa. In response and in support of the Minister's call, EduSense Namibia's, **Promoting Education In Rural Oshikoto (PERO)** programme was initiated, under the Directorship of Mr Setson Iyambo, a retired high school teacher. The project targets Grade 9 and 12 learners, by providing additional tutorials and remedial intercessions, thus improving their academic results in English, Mathematics and Physical Science.

The high failure rate in the Oshikoto region has meant that the region moved from the 2nd position to 5th position, in recent years. To reverse this trend, and to develop global competitiveness among rural and peri-urban-based schools, the intervention was initiated by EduSense Namibia.

EduSense Namibia embarked on soliciting financial assistance from corporate Namibia, including the Road Fund Administration, to fund the three-month pilot study. Two schools from the area have been selected namely Oshapapa Junior Secondary School and Ontananga Secondary School for English, Mathematics and Physical Science as the project subjects. The RFA is supporting the pilot study at the Oshapapa Junior Secondary School.

"We are optimistic that the pilot phase of this programme will yield the necessary results and that it will receive additional support from corporate Namibia. Our nation's hope relies on our children whose hope relies on education.

Therefore, we call on the business community to support such noble causes for an inclusive Namibia", said Ms Patricia Keeja, the RFA's Executive for Strategic Services.

Accepting the sponsorship on behalf of EduSense, Mr Iyambo expressed his gratitude to the RFA for supporting the initiative.

"We are eternally grateful for the RFA's positive response to our request for assistance. They have literally kick-started the project thereby making a positive impact on education in the country, and hope that other institutions will emulate the same gesture" said Iyambo.

The RFA recognises that it is an integral part of the community in which it operates, and is devoted to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the people. The RFA is proud of the relationship formed with EduSense Namibia, and recognises the initiative as a pursuit of strengthening education in Namibia.



*FLTR: The RFA's Acting Chief Financial Officer, Mr Elvis Kambatuku, Executive for Information and Communication Technology, Mr Edison Mberirua, Executive Strategic Services Ms Patricia Keeja, Emma Iyambo, and EduSense Executive Director, Mr Setson Iyambo during the sponsorship handover ceremony.*

# In Brief

## School Bus Donation

The Road Fund Administration joined forces with Corporate Namibia in donating funds required to purchase a school bus for Angra Pequena Senior Secondary School in Lüderitz. The RFA donated N\$50 000 towards the initiative. The bus, valued at N\$812 000 was handed over during the 5th Public Enterprises CEO's Forum and Sports Day held at the town from 6 to 8 June 2019. The bus will be used to transport learners to various sports and cultural activities in and around Lüderitz. Due to a lack of transport the school experienced difficulties in transporting its learners to various destinations to partake in extramural activities – which is now something of the past.



*Mr /Awebahe J. //Hoëseb, Director of Education in the Karas Region, Ms Shyral Beukes, School Principal of Angra Pequena Secondary School receive the RFA's donation from Mr Ali Ipinge, RFA CEO and Ms Patricia Keeja, the RFA's Executive for Strategic Services at the handover ceremony.*



*Representatives of various SOEs handover the vehicle to the school.*



*Students of Angra Pequena Secondary School receive their new bus with enthusiasm and excitement.*

# Wenela Border Post Employees Receive Houses

The RFA employees stationed at the Wenela Border Post became the latest recipients of the institution's Border Post Accommodation Project. The project was initiated in 2015 and forms part of the institution's employment conditions improvement plan aimed at addressing the need for decent accommodation for employees stationed in remote areas. The houses were handed over

to the employees for occupation on 14 April 2019 by the Governor of the Zambezi Region, Honourable Lawrence Sampofu.

The handover of the six (6) new 2 and 3-bedroom housing units signaled completion of phase 3 of the project, which commenced in August 2017 with a total of seventeen (17) houses constructed and handed over at the following border posts to-date:

- 📍 Katwitwi
- 📍 Omahenene
- 📍 Kashamane
- 📍 Oshikango
- 📍 Wenela

Road Fund Administration (RFA) recognises that housing is an important basic need for every Namibian in general, and its staff in particular and has to this end engaged on a Border Post accommodation project. The pilot stage of this project started during the 2014/2015 financial year with the construction of three two-bedroom houses (i.e. one house per border post) at Mata-Mata, Velloorsdrift and Muhembo border posts.

The successful implementation of the pilot stage led to the extension of the border post accommodation project and

resulted in phase 2 and phase 3. Phase 2 of the project was successfully completed in May 2017 at a cost of N\$35-million and included Trans-Kalahari, Noordoewer, Sendelingsdrift, Klein Mannase, Ariamsvlei and Ngoma border posts. The nineteen (19) two-bedroom houses and seventeen (17) one-bedroom houses under phase 2, accommodates around forty-two (42) staff members.

To-date, a total of 65 RFA staff members are accommodated in 54 houses.



Honourable Lawrence Sampofu, Governor of Zambezi region unveiling the plaque.



# Road User Charges Increase



The RFA announced a road user charge tariff increase effective 01 May 2019. The 4.3% increase was approved by the Honourable Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance in March 2019 as Gazetted by the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The annual increase of road user charges is necessary to enable the RFA to meet its mandated obligations of securing and allocating sufficient funding for the achievement of a safe and economically efficient road sector in Namibia.

## The Road User Charges (RUCs) consists of:

- Fuel levy (i.e. a levy charged on fuel consumption)
- Vehicle Licensing and Registration Fees (collected through NaTIS)
- Cross Border Charges (collected at 18 RFA border offices)
- Mass Distance Charges
- Abnormal Load Charges
- Roads Carrier Permits

The Road Fund is mandated through its establishing Act to ensure that Namibia has a well maintained and economically efficient road network, that takes into account the safety of all road users. The development and maintenance of the national and urban road network comes at a huge cost.

Therefore, the RFA has adopted the user-pay-principle, that encourages road users to pay for the usage of the roads.

Given the prevailing sluggish economic conditions, the RFA managed to collect revenue of N\$2.37 billion during the

2017/2018 financial year, which increased to approximately N\$2.46 billion during the 2018/2019 financial year. The RFA anticipates to collect N\$2.5 billion in the 2019/2020 financial year as per its approved business plan. These funds are reinvested towards the maintenance of the proclaimed national road network, which stands at around 48,000km.

The revenue collected by the RFA and the accompanying investment into the roads and the broader economy, makes the organisation one of the key strategic public sector institutions in Namibia.

Since 2008, the RFA has contributed over N\$16.5 billion towards the maintenance and development of the national and urban road network, and commits to contribute as per the approved business plan, approximately N\$13 billion between 2019 to 2024.

The collection of sufficient or optimum funding has been a challenge and will continue to be so in the foreseeable future. Despite that, Namibia has managed to do well in terms of global ranking in the quality of roads as per the World Competitiveness Report for 2017/2018, which ranks Namibia 1st in Africa and at the 25th spot globally. This is an achievement that needs to be maintained and that all Namibians and the broader road sector fraternity should be proud of.

The increase will boost the Road Fund revenue to provide additional investments towards the maintenance, preservation and rehabilitation of the national and urban road network, which is critical to the attainment of Namibia's transport sector programmes, Logistical Hub agenda and economic growth.

# Strengthening Ties Through Sports

The RFA sportsmen and women participated in the 5th SOE games held in Lüderitz on 7 and 8 June 2019. The team displayed great sportsmanship and camaraderie as

they battled it out in soccer, netball, volleyball, tug of war and relay.



# Geographic Footprint



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