

Newsletter

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Sesriem Road and Low Volume Seal Strategy Launched

In fulfilling its mandate of providing equitable funding for road maintenance projects, the RFA fully funded the refurbishment of the new 12.8km District Road 0826 (DR0826) in the acclaimed tourist destination of Sesriem, at a cost of N\$38.4million. The Minister of Works and Transport, Honourable John Mutorwa, officially handed over the road to the community on 16 April 2021.

At the same occasion, the Low Volume Bitumen Strategy was launched.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Honourable John Mutorwa said that road infrastructure is an important factor of productivity, safety and socio-economic development of the country, serving a multitude of purposes and used daily by many road users who rely heavily on it.

“There is no doubt that the investment in road infrastructure aids the economy of the country greatly, and aids as a catalyst for further development that will benefit all the people in rural areas and Namibia as a whole. Hence, as a valued and strategic asset of our country, our Government will continue to ensure that our road network is expanded, maintained and upgraded,” said the Honourable John Mutorwa.

The newly upgraded DR0826 road will reap great benefits to the community and visitors to the dune-rich area in the form of employment creation, easy access and comfortable drives to various tourist establishments in the area.

The upgrade was necessitated by the poor condition of the gravel road due to the high traffic volumes experienced over a long period. Periodic maintenance on this road section proved difficult due to marginal wearing, coarse material and limited construction water in the area. The feasibility study done by the Roads Authority recommended that this road link be considered as priority, as it serves as a vital link to the popular tourist attraction of the Sossusvlei.

The construction work, which commenced in June 2020, was successfully concluded in March 2021.



(FLTR) Hon John Mutorwa, Hon Ipumbu Shiimi, Mr Conrad Lutombi and Mr Ali Ipinge



Hon John Mutorwa officially opens DR0826

Kavango East Region and Impalila Island Roads Upgraded

The Low Volume Bitumen Seal Strategy launched in April 2021 in Sesriem during the opening of District Road 0286 indicated that the programme will be extended to other regions in the country. This ambition came to fruition with the commencement of the upgrading of roads to Low Volume Seal Standards, marked by ground-breaking ceremonies in the Kavango East region and Impalila Island in early June 2021.

Kavango East Regional Roads

Providing good road infrastructure in all corners of our country is an important goal of the Namibian government, and the Low Volume Seal Project is another step in the right direction in the government's efforts to promote economically viable integrated transport services in the regions, as well as at national level.

Namibia is a sparsely populated country, and a large part of the gravel road network is located in rural and disadvantaged areas. Even though routine maintenance is done on the gravel road network, budgetary constraints have become a challenge to adequately maintain all gravel roads. Hence, to ensure that national roads are in a safe and good condition, the Roads Authority and Road Fund Administration initiated the Low Volume Seal Strategy, which is an alternative maintenance strategy to optimize the available funding by doing more with fewer financial resources.

The main objective of the Low Volume Seal Strategy is to bridge the gap between the level of service of gravel roads and high-standard surfaced roads. The upgrading of low trafficked gravel roads to appropriate surfaced standards is a viable solution to reduce the burden of unsealed road maintenance and preserve scarce road building materials. In addition, the upgrading of roads to Low Volume Seal Standards has wide ranging benefits, including an increase in road user satisfaction and reduction of vehicle maintenance costs, reduction in dust emissions, improved road safety and improved vehicle/driver efficiency that reduces fuel costs and improves access to communities.

As part of the Low Volume Seal Project, a maximum of 5 kilometres of most roads passing through urban residential areas, which are densely populated and connecting to villages, will be upgraded.

Once completed, the project is expected to contribute significantly to the development of the region whereby public transport will increase for the benefit of the majority of people who do not own vehicles. The communities will also benefit from increased trade and the road will similarly facilitate access to external markets and thus promote the development of alternative economic activities.



Impalila Island

Situated at the far eastern point of the former Caprivi strip's tip, Impalila Island borders Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe and is completely surrounded by three rivers, namely the Zambezi River, Kasaya River and Chobe River, which links to the Zambezi River on the far east. The Island is only accessible by boat from Kasika to Impalila harbour during the dry season. Additionally, accessibility to the island can also be undertaken via District Road 3524 (Nakabolelwa – Mbalasinte – Kasika) which is approximately 35 kilometres long and is an earth-track through the flood plains.

During the flood season, this road cannot be used and the Island is only accessible by boat either from Ngoma, Nakabolelwa or Katima Mulilo. Against this backdrop, plans are underway to also upgrade District Road 3524: Nakabolelwa – Mbalasinte – Kasika to gravel road standards.

Commencement of the upgrading of District Road 3546, District Road 3547 and District Road 3575 to Low Volume Seal Standards on Impalila Island began on 03 June 2021. The total length of these roads, including minor access roads to public institutions, is approximately 25 kilometres. These roads will be constructed to gravel standards and subsequently to Low Volume Seal Standards over a period of two years. The terrain of Impalila Island is rocky with brown clay soils that are muddy, and is otherwise inaccessible during the rainy season.

The benefits that would be derived from this project are huge. Once completed, the roads will reduce vehicle operating and road user and transport costs, as well as poverty through employment creation during the construction period. Completed roads will also promote trade and tourism, improve access to essential services such as Government offices, Schools, Health Centres, and many Tourism Facilities in the area such as Impalila Island Lodge, Ichingo River Lodge, Ntwala Island Lodge and two camp sites.

The Road Fund Administration will fully fund the project and the Roads Authority will oversee the supervision of the project to ensure that work is carried-out in accordance with the specified standards.

The Low Volume Bitumen Seal Programme will progressively be extended to the Otjozondjupa, Oshana, Omaheke, Ohangwena, Kavango East, Kavango West, Zambezi, Omusati and Erongo Regions. Additionally, all roads within a radius of 15km to towns, and those passing through settlements in some regions, will be upgraded to Low Volume Seal Standards in the foreseeable future.



RFA Supports Athletics Namibia

The Road Fund Administration (RFA) proudly joined corporate Namibia in supporting our athletic sensations, who have recently been making victorious waves on both national and international levels, through a monetary sponsorship of N\$70 000 towards their participation in the Under 20 World Athletics Championships in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Namibian athletes have performed extremely well in recent competitions, including the Olympics, and the RFA could not have been more proud to offer its support to the athletes to fulfil their ambitions at the respective championships.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, Mr. Erwin Naimwhaka, the President of Athletics Namibia said it is only through such support that Athletics Namibia is able to offer opportunities to our athletes who have earned the right to be at the championships.

“Your support is contributing and facilitating a broader national project,” he said.

The Road Fund Administration is indeed pleased to be associated with Athletics Namibia and duly recognizes the sponsorship as a pursuit of strengthening sports development in the country.



RFA on Wheels



Service delivery is central to the RFA's quest of reaching a state of excellent service delivery and is an integral part of the RFA's corporate values. Against this backdrop, the institution decided to bring services closer to its clients with the introduction of a mobile van, which started operating in March 2021 and has thus far made the rounds in various towns across the country.

With the mobile van, RFA clients no longer need to travel long distances to pay their Mass Distance Charges or collect payment confirmations and their logbooks. The van is manned by the RFA's Inspectorate personnel.



RFA's IPINGE TAKES UP THE REINS AS ARMFA PRESIDENT

The Chief Executive Officer of the Road Fund Administration (RFA), Mr. Ali Ipinge, was elected as the President of the African Roads Maintenance Fund Association (ARMFA), to serve for a two-year period. RFA Namibia is a member of the Association.

Ipinge took over the reins from Mr Souleymane Traore, the Managing Director of the Road Maintenance Fund of Guinea, at a ceremonial event held on 12 January 2021 in Conakry, Guinea. Prior to this appointment, Mr Ipinge held the position of ARMFA's 2nd Vice President since February 2018.

At the handing-over ceremony, Mr Ipinge expressed his delight at the honour bestowed upon Namibia to lead ARMFA, especially during these uncertain and challenging times posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Ipinge noted that challenges of declining funding from traditional sources such as fuel levies, as well as issues arising from road maintenance backlogs, aged road infrastructure, the increasing cost of road construction materials, amongst others, need a concerted effort from all stakeholders. He further emphasised that his immediate focus will be to

strengthen the institutional capacity of ARMFA, expand policy support to member states and improve stakeholder engagements across the continent.



In Pictures

Independence Celebrations



In Pictures

Cameroon Benchmark

Earlier this year, a delegation from the Cameroon Road Fund visited the RFA to learn about the best practices in road maintenance funding.



RFA Joins the Fight Against Covid-19

In the wake of the escalating Covid-19 infections and their resultant effects in the country, the Road Fund Administration joined corporate Namibia in meeting the government's efforts in the fight against the global pandemic through a financial sponsorship of N\$300 000 aimed at strengthening the Ministry of Health and Social Services interventions in this regard. The funds were advanced through the Public Enterprises CEOs Forum.

Covid-19 Safety Tips

As COVID-19 continues to spread across the country and around the world, the RFA urges its valuable employees and stakeholders not to let their guard down and to remain vigilant. The changes we have had to make to routines and daily life are extremely difficult, but these are even more important now and in the future. The more steps you and your family can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the safer you will be.

Your health and safety matters! Let's continue adhering to the set safety regulations to keep the spread of this pandemic at bay by:

- Wearing a mask to help stop the spread of COVID-19 to others.
- Practicing social distancing: stay at least one metre from others, particularly in crowded areas.
- Washing your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoiding indoor spaces as much as possible, particularly ones that aren't well ventilated.

We care about your health



Please wear a mask!



1
Apply a squirt of sanitizer to the palm of your hand



2
Rub the back of each hand with the palm of the other



3
Once dry, your hands are safe

ARMFA Executive Committee Meeting in Tanzania

The African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) held its first executive committee meeting on the 13th of June 2021, in Arusha, Tanzania, under the leadership of the CEO of RFA, Mr. Ali Ipinge. Ipinge was appointed as the President of the organisation in December 2020, to serve a two-year period.

ARMFA aims to provide a platform for the exchange of experience and information on best practices in financing road maintenance in Africa, and the efficient operations of the member Road Funds.

The Strategic Goals of the organization are:

- Organizational Effectiveness and Sustainability of ARMFA
- Enhanced Road Maintenance and Safety Financing for Members
- Proactive Participation of Members and Stakeholders in ARMFA Programmes
- Good Governance and Institutional Integrity of Road Funds



Road Asset Management Training and Workshop

The Executive Committee meeting coincided with Road Asset Management (RAM) Training organized by the Tanzanian Road Fund. RAM is a systematic process of planning, acquiring, maintaining, upgrading and operating road assets cost-effectively. The training covered the role and benefits of the proactive maintenance of assets. Preservation is more important than waiting for the asset to reach a stage of failure and the need for reconstructing the assets. The objective is to slow down the rate of asset deterioration and effectively increase the useful life of the asset.

One of the key discussion points was the consideration for implementing an asset management system, as the importance of Road Asset Management Systems cannot be overemphasized. It is a dynamic process, as new ways of doing things more efficiently and effectively are continuously being explored.

Our New Brand Identity

OUR BRAND PROMISE

To give all our customers an effortless and seamless customer experience.

OUR BRAND POSITIONING

We drive Namibia's progress through funding road infrastructure maintenance that connects people and businesses, thus enabling economic growth.

OUR SLOGAN

Funding roads, steering growth.

Our updated slogan reminds our customers what it is we do and what value we offer as an organisation.

OUR NEW LOGO

Our logo was inspired by a bird's eye view of roads, highways and intersections – creating an abstract shape that symbolises movement, progress and connection. It utilises colours which have a deeper meaning and help represent who we are and what we do:

Green has associations with money and prosperity - it also represents progress, safety, optimism and growth.

Navy blue represents professionalism, power, confidence and authority.

The transformation of our Corporate Identity elevates our brand to iconic status, setting us apart and **reiterating our commitment to provide service excellence that shines.**

