

Road Fund Administration (RFA) hosts 17th Africa Road Maintenance Fund Association (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 annual forum which opened on Monday, March 11th under the theme: "Sustainable Road Infrastructure: Impact on Regional Integration and Free Trade in Africa", provided stakeholders with a unique opportunity and platform to discuss matters of common interest, and to foster in unity towards road network interconnectedness amongst African countries.

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

In his keynote speech Schlettwein stated, "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 mobilization as the central pillar for long-term sustainability of outcomes," 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 organization, 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, Gabone, and has grown from 18 founding members to 34 member countries.

He said that 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 and trade.

