

Road Fund News

of Days in Long 1

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Botswana benchmarks on Lesotho's electronic Spot Fine

> Relations between Road Funds and Road Authorities need to be strengthened



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Foreword From The Chief Executive Officer's Desk



Mr. Nkekeletse Makara Pr. Eng Chief Executive Officer

Readers of the Road Fund Newsletter, I welcome you to the fifth issue of our bi-annual publication, which I believe you will enjoy like the last four issues we produced since this initiative came into fruition.

Our aim is to ensure you remain informed of what we do as the Fund, but most importantly to understand our mandate and our relationship with stakeholders who are key in ensuring that we achieve what we are entrusted to do. We have realised that communicating what we do and what we plan to do is assisting us to achieve our desire for you to know us, including the ability to interact with us fully on all our communication channels.

Amongst the most significant achievements which this newsletter will report on are highlights from African Roads Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) Annual General Assembly (AGA), hosted by the Road Fund in Senegal in May 2022. This meeting brought together all Road Funds from the four regions of the continent physically after almost three years since the AGA was held in Namibia in 2019 before the COVID 19 pandemic.

Stakeholder relations in an agenda that the Fund holds very high in its business, it is for this reason that I met with some of our key strategic partners during this period, with the aim to hone the relations and ensure that healthy and sustainable relations are established and maintained. In this issue you will therefore read about my meeting with the Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship, as well as another one I had with newly appointed Town Clerk of the Maseru City Council.

The implementation of the Automated Traffic Justice System sponsored by the Road Fund is also being discussed in this issue. This Project involves collaboration between the Lesotho Mounted Police System, Prosecution, Judiciary as users and Engidata as the developer of the system. The aim of the System is to improve workflow between departments that deal with traffic offences resulting from contravention of the Road Traffic laws of the country.

In enhancing the road safety programmes in the country, we have, during this period, funded the speed, drinking and driving campaign initiated by the Road Safety Department with the view to address the increasing road crashes in the country, caused by amongst others, over speeding, drinking and driving.

We continued to sponsor road works implemented by road agencies financed by the Fund namely Roads Directorate, Maseru City Council and Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship. These range from improvement of road markings, rehabilitation of roads, to maintenance of existing ones and erosion protection works on selected bitumen and gravel roads.

On another milestone we were able to plough back to the community through sponsorship of the Sunshade Farming net for a vulnerable family of Thabaneng in Mafeteng. The Net is to improve the livelihood of this family of farmers through their intension to plough vegetable and sell them for profit.

Wellness activities for staff are crucial to enhance staff performance, as a healthy workforce is a productive workforce. It is for this reason that the Road Fund organised a wellness day for its staff which activities will be depicted pictorially in this publication.

I hope that you will enjoy this issue, as you did with the others. Some of the pertinent initiatives that are not highlighted on this issue can be found on our up to date online platforms, namely the Road Fund website www.roadfund.org.ls as well as the Fund's social media pages of Facebook and Instagram.

We still hope you will provide us with feedback through engaging our Public Relations Department on this and our other platforms on the Fund's activities.

Warm regards

/ N.K...

Sustainability of Road Maintenance Funds remains key



ARMFA President Mr. Ali Ipinge officiating the Annual General Assembly in Dakar Senegal

Sustainability of Road Maintenance Funds in Africa is key in ensuring that the Road Funds remain relevant as entrusted by governments to relief the national coffers and keep roads in good conditions through collection and disbursements of road user charges.

This was said by the Minister of Infrastructure and Land Transport in Senegal Mr. Mansour Faye while delivering a keynote address during the opening ceremony of the African Roads Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) Annual General Assembly (AGA), hosted by the Road Fund in Senegal.

He said governments should help Road Funds set up viable structures that can effectively mobilise funds for road maintenance, adding that it is important for Road Funds to be able to deal with modern problems related to funding of roads due to the way they are structured. He indicated that roads remain the basis of economic growth in any country, explaining that if roads are well maintained country by country, they will boost the economic status of Africa as it will be easy for countries to access each other for collaborations, ferrying of passengers and goods for business and leisure thereby enhancing economies of these countries.

Speaking at the occasion, the President of ARMFA Mr. Ali Ipinge said it was a pleasure for African Road Funds to finally be able to meet again physically after almost three years since the AGA was held in Namibia in 2019 before the COVID 19 pandemic.

"It is important to interact and trade amongst ourselves as Africans hence roads should be at their best; this will facilitate free movement and interactions that can boost the economic status of our continent," he reiterated. He talked to the fact that there is a gradual decrease of fuel levy with the emergence of more efficient electric vehicles which represents a huge challenge for Road Funds, hence it is necessary for Road Funds to get engaged in other ways of mobilizing financial resources such as inland tolling as an alternative for funding streams for Road Funds.

He concluded by indicating that good progress has been made in shaping the future of ARMFA through development of relevant documents that will guide the management of the Association, saying the ARMFA Strategic Plan is one such document that would be adopted by the AGA.

On his part, the Director General of the Road Fund in Senegal known as FERA Mr. Mamadou Faye said that they were pleased to host the 19th Annual General Assembly after it was postponed in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

He said the theme of the AGA, which is "Sustainability of Road Maintenance Funds" was chosen carefully as

most countries still had challenges of sustainable access to funds, hence the relevance of the theme at this time.

Mr. Faye wished all members of ARMFA a good stay in Senegal throughout the week, and mostly fruitful deliberations that would ensure every Road Fund in Africa grows from strength to strength.

The Road Fund Lesotho Team was led by the Board Chairperson Mr. Makotoko Makotoko along with the Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara and two senior officials of the Fund.

ARMFA is a non-profit making and non-political association that was founded in the year 2003 in Libreville, Gabon. The aim is to provide a platform and establish a network for experience and information sharing on leading road maintenance practices in Africa; to discuss and find opportunities on funding options and to promote and strengthen links between members of African Road Funds.



Part of Delegates at the ARMFA Annual General Assembly held in Senegal. Road Fund Lesotho was represented



Minister of Infrastucture & Land Transport & DG Road Fund Senegal after the AGA Opening Ceremony

Principals briefed on Automated Traffic Justice System



Part of Principals during the Automated Traffic Justice System briefing meeting

Principals from Road Fund, Lesotho Mounted Police Services (LMPS), Prosecution and Judiciary were briefed about the Automated Traffic Justice System during a meeting that was organised by the Automated Traffic Justice System development team in Maseru recently.

The Automated Traffic Justice System project is supported financially by Road Fund, while LMPS, Prosecution, Judiciary are the users and Engidata is the developer of the system. The system is aimed at improving workflow between departments that deal with traffic offences resulting from contravention of the Road Traffic laws of the country.

In her welcome remarks, the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) Advocate Hlalefang Motinyane said that the road offences affect the society at large and therefore the system will make sure that they are dealt with quickly in order to protect the law and the road users.

She also mentioned that the system is not just going to help the police but also the public at large to abide by rules of the roads and the courts to pass relevant sentences to the offences.

The Chairperson of the project Advocate Lesitsi Mokeke said that the financial support given by the Road Fund will always be appreciated as it ensures success of the Project. During the briefing, Senior Inspector Moeketsi Mahetlane mentioned that during the sensitization to stakeholders about the Automated Traffic Justice System, there were challenges that the team experienced regarding the system which were fortunately resolved, for example, there are police stations without electricity and inadequate computer literacy amongst the users, limited devices and data which would hinder the system to work effectively.

Speaking at the occasion, Chief Magistrate 'Matankiso Nthunya said that the system breaks the traditional way of dealing with the traffic offences manually whereby it took longer for cases to be dealt, some of which would disappear within the manual system.

She said that the system will restore social trust in justice provided by the courts and eliminate the social stigma of the cases that disappear in court.

The Police Commissioner Mr. Holomo Molibeli applauded and thanked the team for the development of the Automated Traffic Justice System, pointing out that the system will speed up the justice system and therefore the road offenders will face justice and conviction within a short period of time.

The System is being piloted in Maseru and will be rolled out to other districts in due course.



Participants at the Automated Traffic Justice System briefing meeting



Part of the Automated Traffic Justice System Implementation Team during the briefing meeting



Commissioner of Police and LMPS Officials were part of the Automated Traffic Justice System meeting



Road Fund CEO and Commissioner of Police during one of the stakeholder engagement meetings

Five Officials representing the Botswana Police Service and Ministry of Transport and Communications recently visited the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) on a benchmarking exercise of the electronic Spot Fine (eSpot Fine).

The LMPS started implementing eSpot Fine in September 2019, under the sponsorship of Road Fund. eSpot Fine has been implemented as an improvement of the manual spot fine to the electronic based one that uses gadgets and computers for its administration.

The Five-man delegation from Botswana was led by Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Katlholo Mosimanekgape. Speaking at the closing ceremony of their visit hosted by LMPS, The Senior Assistant Commissioner said him and his delegation have gained an insight into the operations of the eSpot Fine, adding that they hope to get buy in for implementation in Botswana.

He applauded the LMPS on this initiative, saying that is seems to be the ideal way to tackle spot fines, as the manual way has its own challenges, which hinder performance of the Traffic Police Officers in this area.

The Commissioner of Police Mr. Holomo Molibeli said ever since the introduction of the electronic Spot Fine, a number of Traffic Police Officers have shown enthusiasm on their work adding that even though they are not yet perfect, but their skills are definitely improving for the better.

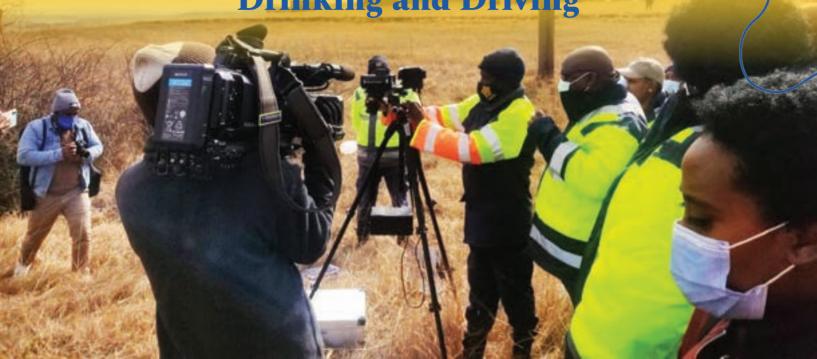
He thanked the Road Fund for making the initiative possible, further expressing his happiness on the fact that other countries recognize their efforts hence the benchmarking by Botswana.

The Chief Executive Officer of Road Fund Mr. Nkekeletse Makara expressed his gratitude for the Fund to be associated with this important milestone within the LMPS, reiterating that Road Fund is a willing partner to ensure the eSpot Fine is fully operational and yielding intended results.

He challenged COMPOL to ensure that LMPS is not bypassed by the Botswana Police Service, explaining that Botswana should come back to learn more, rather than LMPS learning from Botswana yet they implemented the initiative first.

The Botswana delegation spent five days in the country learning all aspects of the eSpot fine including participating in road blocks where gadgets were used to capture traffic offences. They will advocate for its buy in in Botswana and ultimate implementation.

Road Safety addresses Speed, Drinking and Driving



Minister of Transport orientated about the speed camera during the campign launch

The Road Safety Department has launched a Campaign that is meant to address the increasing road crashes in the country, caused by amongst others, over speeding, drinking and driving.

The Campaign was launched by the Minister of Transport Mr. Tšoeu Mokeretla, during a ceremony held at the Palace Hotel in Berea on Wednesday June 22, 2022.

The aim of the campaign is to educate and remind the drivers of their responsibilities on the road, which is to protect themselves and other road users being other drivers, passengers or pedestrians alike, through responsible driving.

In his speech, the Minister applauded the Road Safety Department for focusing on those that trigger an increase in road fatalities, adding that it is sad that each year lives are lost, mostly through accidents that are caused by reckless driving, negligence and drunken driving.

"This means that more Basotho continue to be in danger each year, and therefore I urge all stakeholders to do everything in their power to help stop or at least decrease the road accidents which are mostly uncalled for and can be avoided," he added.

He concluded by thanking Road Fund for always making the Department's initiatives possible through Funding, further acknowledging that the Campaign was made possible by sponsorship from the Fund.

Speaking at the same occasion, the Area Chief Mrs. 'Makhapane Tjobe expressed her happiness about the campaign, adding that lately there has been an increase in car accidents and loss of lives on that road, and that affected her negatively and rendered her a failure as the Area Chief.

During the launch, there was performance of a Drama meant to raise awareness about the pressure which most of the taxi drivers face from their employers which lead to over speeding. It also touched on the dangers of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Following the launch, the Campaign will run every last week of the month, at identified black spots across the country.

The Road Fund Sponsorship for the Campaign is divided into quarters, and this quarter has been funded to a tune of M750,000.00.



Minister of Transport orientated about the speed camera during the campign launch



Display of publicity banners by sponsors during the launch

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Part of the Officials who attended the campaign launch

Road Works sponsored by Road Fund-Implementation by Roads Directorate



Plant and Design Build Repairs of Hlotse Crossing-Construction of a Mini bridge Konkotia to Pentsi

Road Fund has sponsored Roads Directorate to undertake plant and design repair of Hlotse Crossing along D1401 Konkotia to Pentsi.

This construction of a new Mini Bridge is now complete and has cost the Fund around M6,6 Million.

Road Fund is also sponsoring Roads Directorate to undertake routine maintenance of A1 Road ('Moteng to Oxbow) and of A12 Road (Seretse Khama to Maputsoe).

The ongoing maintenance works entails repair of drainage and pavement layers, resurfacing with asphalt and road markings.

The project has to date cost the Fund around M12,7 Million.

Another project that has been completed by the Roads Directorate is the Plant and Design Build repair of Meriting Culvert A2 to 29 and repair of Mondea A4 to 05A Road.

The work that has been completed entails repair of culverts, side drain and gabion retaining wall and has cost the Fund around M2,8 Million.

The urgent pavement repairs of the Oxbow and Mapholaneng Road is in progress and is focusing on the resurfacing of Carriage Way. Implemented by the Roads Directorate, it has cost the Fund around M18 Million.

The Road Fund is entrusted to collect revenue from various streams; the revenue is then disbursed to road implementing agencies namely Roads Directorate, Maseru City Council and Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship for maintenance and rehabilitation of roads in the country. Road Safety Department also gets a share for road user safety Programmes.



Plant and Design Build Repairs of Hlotse Crossing-Construction of a Mini bridge Konkotia to Pentsi



Routine Maintenance of 'Moteng to Oxbow Road



Plant and Design Build Repair of Meriting Culvert





Road Works sponsored by Road Fund-Implementation by Maseru City Council

Construction of a Vented Ford at Motimposo

Maseru City Council has been financed by Road Fund to construct a Vented Ford at Motimposo in Maseru.

The Vented Ford has improved access to the Motimposo area.

The Project which is now complete has cost Road Fund around M3,3 Million.

The Road Fund is entrusted to collect revenue from various streams such as toll gate fees, motor vehicle permits, road maintenance levy as well as fines for traffic offences.

The Maseru City Council is one of the implementing agencies that is sponsored by the Road Fund through the revenue collected for maintenance and rehabilitation of roads in the country.



Construction of a Vented Ford at Motimposo



Construction of a Vented Ford at Motimposo





Construction of a Vented Ford at Motimposo

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Road Works sponsored by Road Fund -Implementation by Ministry of Local Government



Periodic Maintenance of Bongalla to Maoela gravel road

In line with the Fund's mandate, which is to finance routine, emergency and periodic maintenance of roads, the Ministry of Local Government has been sponsored to undertake periodic maintenance of a gravel road at Bongalla to Maoela.

The maintenance work entails maintenance of the gravel road including construction of a Vented Ford for improved access of Maoela area Construction of a Vented Ford is still in progress.

The project has to date cost Road Fund about M2,3 Million.



Periodic Maintenance of Bongalla to Maoela gravel road





Road Fund CEO meets Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship



Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship with Road Fund CEO during their meeting

Healthy and sustainable stakeholder relations are one of the key ingredients in achieving the Fund's organizational goals.

It is for this reason that the Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara held a meeting with the Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship Mr. Moshe Leoma at his offices in Maseru.

The aim of the meeting was to jointly assess the working relations and to agree on strategies for collaboration in order to deliver anticipated results on the maintenance of roads that will benefit road users.

Also present in the meeting was the Ministry's Principal Secretary Mr. Lefu Manyokole and Engineers from the Ministry and the Fund.

The Road Fund maintains relations with its stakeholders at various levels being technical and high level engagement meetings, because in its nature, the Fund upholds the principle of stakeholder engagement highly in its agenda.

The Road Fund finances routine, emergency and periodic maintenance of roads under the Ministry including the Maseru City Council which is answerable to the Ministry.

The CEO will also meet Heads of other Road Implementing Agencies in due course.

Relations between Road Funds and Road Authorities need to be strengthened



Road Fund CEO speaking during the ARMFA Annual General Assembly in Dakar Senegal

Participants at the African Roads Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) Annual General Assembly (AGA), hosted by the Road Fund in Senegal earlier this year have discussed and agreed that relations between Road Funds and Road Authorities in Africa need to be strengthened.

This is one of the many topics tackled during the AGA, which brought Road Funds from 34 African Countries together as members of ARMFA to jointly review and agree on how best to keep Road Funds relevant under the theme "Sustainability of Road Maintenance Funds".

In his Contribution to the discussions, the Road Fund Lesotho Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara said the issue of the relationship between the Road Funds and Road Authorities remain critical to ensure efficiency in the whole system.

"The relevance of either organisations depends on the level of understanding that the two need each other to coexist; because Road Funds are not implementing agencies, they need the Road Authorities to perform their duties efficiently so that roads remain well maintained, otherwise the Road Funds get blamed for non-performance as they collect from the road users," he reiterated.

Participants shared the same sentiments, and ARMFA member states agreed to embark in rigorous stakeholder engagement initiatives where the Funds will ensure that the agencies comprehend well their role in maintenance of roads. A lot of resolutions were adopted at the AGA aimed at enhancing performance of Road Funds amidst the changing landscapes be it due to emergence of electric cars, challenges relating to climate change and effects of pandemics such as that of COVID 19.

Members agreed that it was important to align and strengthen strategic partnerships with other entities such as the World Bank and to seek affiliation with the African Union.

At the meeting the President of ARMFA Mr. Ali Ipinge welcomed the newest member Angola from the Southern African Focal Group and welcomed back Gabon from the Central African Focal Group which has been away for some time.

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



Road Fund Board Chairperson, CEO and Compliance Manager during ARMFA AGA opening ceremony

Road Fund donates a Sunshade Farming Net



Road Fund staff and neighbours who attended the handing over ceremony

Road Fund extended its helping hand by donating a Sunshade Farming Net to a family of farmers to help them enhance their growing of vegetables at Ha Lebenkele, Mafeteng as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme.

The Road Fund Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Nkekeletse Makara handed over the Net, food parcels and clothes to the vulnerable family headed by unemployed grandmother and grandfather who take care of three orphaned children.

In his speech Mr. Makara congratulated the family for being the chosen one for assistance

from the Road Fund, pointing out that selecting a beneficiary is a very difficult job because of the number of needy families that need help and unfortunately Road Fund cannot afford to help all of them

She wished Road Fund more prosperity so that it can continue to help more people not just in her village but the rest of the country.

The Sunshade Farming net was worth M60 000.00 while food parcels and clothes cost the Fund M10,000.00.



Road Fund CEO with beneficiary of the Sunshade Net and the Local Chieftainess





The beneficiary Mrs. 'Mamojalefa Thebe speaking during the handing over ceremony 20

MCC Town Clerk pays courtesy call on Road Fund CEO



Road Fund CEO and MCC Town Clerk during the courtesy call

The newly appointed Maseru City Council (MCC) Town Clerk Mr. Selete Molete has paid a courtesy call to the Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara, at the Road Fund (RF) offices in Maseru recently.

During the visit, Mr. Molete said he saw it befitting to meet the Road Fund CEO due to the relationship that the two organizations have, and to pave way for future meetings where critical issues concerning the country's development will be discussed.

The Town Clerk indicated that he comes into office during the time when roads are in bad conditions and are full of potholes, saying that the collaboration between MCC and RF needs to be strengthened in order to deal with this current appalling situation of roads jointly.

"There are also big projects that we will be working on together, which need us to have a common understanding in order for them to be a success, one of which is the upgrading of Mpilo Boulevard road", he concluded,

On his part, the Road Fund CEO thanked the Town Clerk for finding time for the courtesy call, saying that it is a sign of commitment in as far as working relations between MCC and RF are concerned. Mr. Makara indicated that the Road Fund holds stakeholder relations highly in its agenda, especially because in order to deliver on its mandate, the Fund depends on these stakeholders, as they influence and impact on its performance and delivery of results.

He indicated that it is now more critical than ever to work together to safe the prevailing situation, further saying they have started on the right footing with the Town Clerk, therefore a lot will be achieved if communication flows openly at all times.

Mr. Makara concluded by saying there are performance agreement contracts that the agencies sign in order to ensure that planned maintenance of roads is undertaken as per plan, explaining that compliance to such a contract remains critical therefore MCC can work with the Fund's Compliance Department to ensure that the contract is adhered to.

The Road Fund finances routine, emergency and periodic maintenance of roads under the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship including those under the Maseru City Council which is answerable to the Ministry.

Road Implementing Agencies Urged to improve Quality of Roads



Road Fund CEO addressing participants of the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

The Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara has urged Road Implementing Agencies to strive to improve the quality of roads in the country, as they are almost on the verge of collapse.

He said this while officially opening the Technical Stakeholder Engagement Meeting with representatives of the Road Implementing Agencies namely Roads Directorate, Maseru City Council and the Ministry of Local Government and Chieftainship, organized by the Road Fund recently.

He indicated that it is more critical than ever to work together to safe the prevailing situation, further requesting the Agencies to focus on doing quality roads that can last for the anticipated economic life.

"The little we are able to do, if we can do it right, will assist us to come with long term strategies to realize value for money. It is worrying that most of the road works are not able to survive one rainy season. This shows that Agencies do not pay attention to quality as contractors are working, please rectify this mistake," he reiterated.

Mr. Makara said the Road Fund is looking up to the Agencies to improve their performance because it collects funds from the road users, who in turn are expecting to see positive developments on the roads, saying if this does not happen, it hits back more on the Fund than the Agencies who do the actual work.

He concluded by asking participants to device a unified approach to ensure that every Agency remains consistent while doing maintenance works, as that would be good not only for the Financier but for the road users whom the money is collected from as well.

During the Meeting, the Road Fund Senior Secretariat Engineer Mr. Tšeliso Polaki led the participants through the Performance Agreements, submission of Annual Maintenance programmes and Reporting Formats for better understanding of same and to ensure compliance as well.

The representatives of Implementing Agencies promised to comply with all requirements of the Fund, and mostly to work closely with contractors as they maintain and rehabilitate roads so that they deliver expected quality within the expected timeframe.

The Road Fund maintains relations with its stakeholders at various levels and the Technical meeting will lead to the High Level Stakeholder Engagement Meetings, where the Road Fund CEO will hold discussions with Heads of the Implementing Agencies.



Road Fund CEO with participants of the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting



Part of participants at the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting



Road Fund Senior Secretariat Engineer and participants at the Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

Road Fund Wellness Day

















Road Fund Wellness Day

















Road Fund

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