



Road Fund Newsletter

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**Regional Road Funds zoom on
Legal Frameworks**

**Road Fund embarks on Construction
and Upgrading of Toll Infrastructure**



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Foreword

From the Chief Executive Officer's Desk

The seventh issue of our Newsletter is here! I am pleased to welcome you to our bi-annual publication, which is our believe that you will enjoy it, as you did the last six issues since this initiative came into fruition. Once again, this issue is designed to keep you the reader, incredibly informed, not only about what we do as the Road Fund, but to also enhance your understanding in relations to our mandate; with much emphasis on our relationship with stakeholders, which is key in ensuring that we achieve what we are entrusted to do.

We are glad that our stakeholders and the broader public have been able to not only interact with us face to face and through the electronic media but have accessed the newsletter as well for detailed updates on the Road Fund's initiatives.

I therefore invite you to enjoy this issue, in which we highlight some of the activities that have taken place in the recent months. Amongst the stories you will read about include the tour of projects sponsored by the Road Fund by the Board of Directors. This was just a verification process of funds they normally approve for road works requests by the Road Implementing Agencies.

You will also read about the ARMFA Southern Africa Focal Group (ASAFG) Meeting hosted by the Road Fund Administration in Namibia. During this meeting member countries zoomed on on Legal Frameworks that establish Road Funds in the region, with the aim to assess their relevance to the changing environment. It was convened under the theme: Our Legal Framework, its strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement.

A4 I am also glad to give the readers highlights of



*Mr. Nkekeletse Makara Pr. Eng.
Chief Executive Officer*

some road works sponsored by the Fund during the period, ranging from improvement and rehabilitation of roads on selected bitumen roads as well as rebuilding of Tsoaing bridge which was destroyed by heavy rains.

To improve mobility within the Maseru City, the Road Fund has sponsored three projects to rehabilitate artificial road lighting along the A1, A2 and Kingsway Roads. The story detailing this exciting initiative of lighting the city is detailed in here, outlining even the budget for the projects.

In order to ensure the improved road user experience through better operating facilities, we share in this issue progress on the Road Fund's initiative to refurbish three borders, namely construction and upgrading of Caledonspoort

Border, Maputsoe Border and Maseru Bridge. Construction work commenced during the 2022-2023 financial year and has progressed significantly.

On another milestone we were able to plough back to the community through sponsorship of 100 desks to Motimposo Primary School, an initiative we are very excited about as it will enhance the learning environment of students and will have a long-term effect on the quality of education offered at the School.

The Road Fund organised an engagement meeting with Traffic Police Officers from the ten districts to review performance of the electronic Spot Fine, which is sponsored by Road Fund but implemented by Lesotho Mounted Police Services through Traffic Police Officers.

The above highlighted content and so much more is available for your indulgence in this issue, it

is my hope that you will enjoy it. To know more about the Road Fund's pertinent initiatives that are not highlighted in this issue, please feel free to regularly check 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.

The Corporate Communications Department of the Road Fund is available at all times for any further clarifications you may seek, please keep engaging them on the mentioned platforms for continued feedback on the Road Fund's activities.

Warm regards



Mr. Nkeketse Malakia Makara Pr. Eng
Chief Executive Officer



Board Members kicked started their tour at the Sani Border Post

Board of Directors on tour of projects sponsored by Road Fund

Members of the Board of Directors have conducted a tour of the projects sponsored by the Road Fund, starting with the northern districts of the country.

The tour commenced with a visit to Sani Solar Project being implemented at the Sani Border by the Road Fund, but is still in its infancy.

In the Butha-Buthe district they visited the Construction and Upgrading of the Toll Infrastructure Project at Caledonspoort Border,

being implemented by the Road Fund to improve road user experience and to provide better operating facilities. This project has cost the Road Fund a sum of M1,660, 473.00.

They proceeded to the Leribe district and checked progress on the maintenance and repair of the A1 Road from 'Malesaoana to Butha-Buthe Circle. This project which is being implemented by Roads Directorate and sponsored by Road Fund, has been allocated M75,000,000.00 this financial year and a



Board Members at Maputsoe Border to check Construction and Upgrading of Toll Infrastructure

total of M36,461,247.95 has been spent to date. Still in Leribe, The Board Members visited the routine maintenance of Sebothoane to Qoqolosing Project. Implemented by the Roads Directorate, it has cost the Road Fund a total of M1,754,986.00 to date.

The last project they visited was the 'Makhoroana to Tšabang which is the plant and design repair of 2 vented fords and 2 drifts crossings along that road. Implemented by the Roads Directorate, the project has cost the Road Fund a total of M3,608,774.52.

The Construction and Upgrading of Toll Infrastructure at Maputsoe Border was the next stop. The project which has just been completed and implemented by the Road Fund has cost a total of M9,007,693.00.

Meanwhile, the Board Members also stopped by the Monontša Border Project, just to appreciate the works that are ongoing on site, this project is not sponsored by the Road Fund.



'Makhoroana to Tšabang plant and design repair of 2 vented fords and 2 drifts crossings was one of the Projects Board Members visited



Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr. Matjato Moteane officiated the meeting

eNaTIS should improve service delivery-Minister

The Electronic National Traffic Information System (eNaTIS) should assist improve efficiency of the Department of Traffic and Transport (DTT), and ultimately service delivery of DTT to the nation.

This was said by the Minister of Public Works and Transport Mr. Matjato Moteane during the recent visit of the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) of South Africa to Lesotho.

He indicated that the expectation is that the system should perform as it does in South Africa, as it is the same system, and has the ability to offer services such as online motor vehicle registration and renewals, without necessarily having to go queue at DTT.

and if eNaTIS is capable of assisting us to achieve this, then let us ensure we use it to our advantage, so that queues at the DTT can be the thing of the past,” he reiterated.

The Chief Executive Officer of RTMS Adv. Makhosini Msibi echoed the Minister’s words by assuring attendees that eNaTIS offers very convenient online services where road users are not required to go to the centres to be serviced.

He said RTMC is willing and capable to assist Lesotho to move to this stage, so that efficiency is the order of the day through full effective and usage of the system.

In his speech, the Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkeketse Makara said Road Fund is willing to

A4 “Basotho are looking up to us to improve services



Part of participants at the meeting with RTMC

support full implementation of the system, adding that improved service would not only benefit the road users but also improve revenue collection that will enable government to access all levies due to it, as well as enable government agencies such as the Road Fund to deliver on their mandate efficiently and as per expectation.

RTMC administers the eNaTIS system that has been rolled out to other countries in Southern

Africa like Lesotho and Namibia. The outcome of the recent visit of RTMC to Lesotho will be an improve Memorandum of Understanding, aimed at ensuring that eNaTIS performs as per expectation.

eNaTIS is implemented by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport through the Department of Traffic and Transport and supported technically and financially by the Road Fund.



Participants at the meeting between the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) of South Africa



Delegates at the ASAFG Meeting hosted by Road Fund Administration in Namibia

Regional Road Funds zoom on Legal Frameworks

For its third meeting of the year 2023, the ARMFA Southern Africa Focal Group (ASAFG) Meeting zoomed on Legal Frameworks that establish Road Funds in the region, with the aim to assess their relevance to the changing environment.

In his official opening address, the ASAFG Chairperson and Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara said it was essential to look at the Legal Instruments so as to share experiences regarding their implementation.

“I am very excited about this theme as we review our founding legislations and determine their relevance to the environment we operate in, and with regard to ensuring sustainable infrastructure within our countries and the region as a whole,” he reiterated.

At the meeting, various countries presented their



The ASAFG Chairperson Mr. Nkekeletse Makara officiating the ASAFG Meeting in Namibia



Part of the participants of the ASAFG Meeting in Namibia

Legal Frameworks, where intriguing discussions emanated; it became clear that indeed the mandate of the Road Funds and the reason why they exist is the same, even though founding Legal Frameworks differed from country to country.

The meeting was attended by Road Funds in the region namely Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Namibia as the host.

ASAFG is the Southern Africa arm of the African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) which was established in 2003 as 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 and to promote and strengthen links between members of African Road Funds.



Part of the participants of the ASAFG Meeting in Namibia



Part of Participants at the eSpot Fine Performance Review Meeting

Electronic Spot Fine Performance Evaluated

The electronic Spot Fine (eSpot Fine) performance has been reviewed, during a meeting convened between Road Fund and Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), at the 'Manthabiseng Convention Centre.

The review meeting was aimed at assessing progress on eSpot Fine since the LMPS moved from manual Spot Fine to the electronic based one that uses devices and computers for its administration under the sponsorship of Road Fund.

Delivering his official opening remarks, the Road Fund CEO Mr. Nkekeletse Makara said the review meeting was long overdue as the electronic Spot Fine has been fully operational since September 2019.

He said transitioning from manual to electronic based work throughout the country should have come with challenges, which he encouraged participants to spell out so that they can fully be addressed in order to improve on the eSpot Fine

system.

He clarified that Road Fund is entrusted to collect road user charges through various streams, saying that road traffic offences charged by LMPS through issuance of Spot Fines to road users need to be well executed in order not only to collect the funds but also to save lives and restore order and compliance to Traffic Laws in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, the Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Tšeliso Moerane expressed his appreciation to the Road Fund for sponsoring this initiative, adding that since introduction of the electronic Spot Fine, a number of Traffic Police Officers have shown enthusiasm to their work; also saying that even though they are not yet perfect, their skills are definitely improving for the better.

Presenting on the actual performance of the Spot Fine the Road Fund Head of Finance Mrs. Mphaphathi Ramanyalane showed that in 2023 the sum of issued Spot Fine totalled 34 000, with only 22 906 of them paid while 11 104 remain overdue.



In the discussions during the meeting, the Senior Police Officers in attendance indicated that even through the eSpot Fine has improved their work in several ways, there are a number of challenges they face as they operationalise it.

They said such include overdue fines consisting mostly of taxi drivers who do not tell vehicle owners that they have been issued with spot fines, or people who sell their vehicles and fail to disclose to buyers that they have pending fines. Sometimes the online payment points do not function thereby hindering road users to pay fines within the stipulated seven days' time frame, they added.

Another challenge they talked about related to access to network in the rural areas, as the devices are internet based, and they also called for increase on the number of devices themselves, as they have always been limited.

The meeting concluded by agreeing to note all the challenges and devise possible remedies, which would be tracked over time, and would be reviewed in the next meeting. The meeting was attended by Road Fund and LMPS Management from all regions



ARMFA Executive Committee Members during the visit to the Headquarters in Kenya

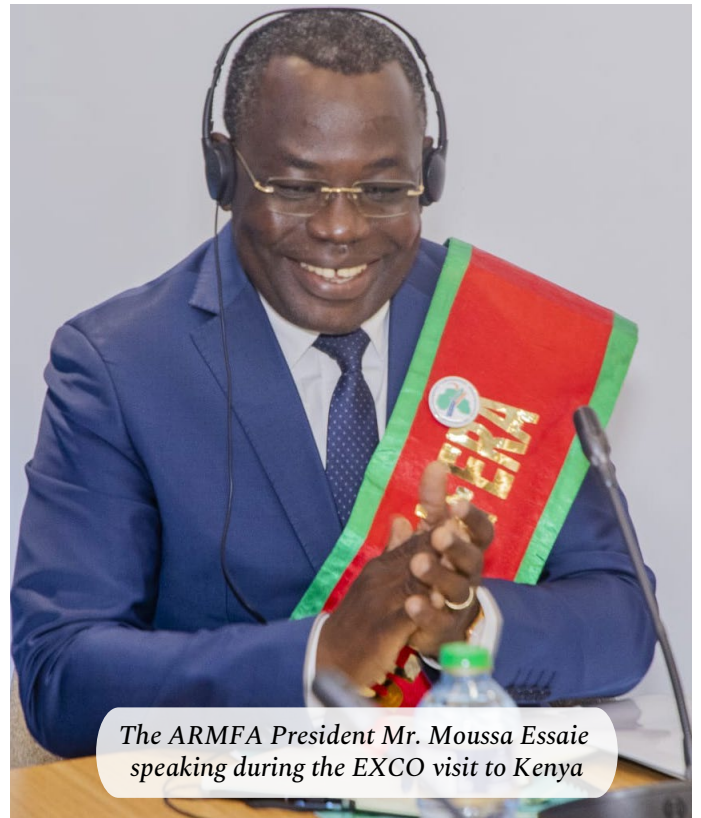
ARMFA sets up head office in Nairobi, Kenya

The African Road Maintenance Funds Association (ARMFA) has set up its first ever head office in Nairobi, Kenya.

The ARMFA Executive Committee convened in Nairobi during the week of 28 to 31, August 2023, to officially open the offices and to inaugurate the newly appointed ARMFA Executive Secretary, who will head the office and oversee its operations.

The decision to host the ARMFA Head office in Nairobi was reached during the ARMFA Annual General Meeting held in Dakar Senegal in May 2022, owing to its status as a financial and transportation hub as well as its prevailing political stability.

The Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara attended this Executive Committee function, he is a member of ARMFA Executive Board in his capacity as the Chairperson



The ARMFA President Mr. Moussa Essaie speaking during the EXCO visit to Kenya



Briefing session before tour of ARMFA Offices in Kenya

of the ARMFA Southern Africa Focal group (ASAFG).

ARMFA is a 34 Member nonpolitical and nonprofit continental Association established in 2003 as a platform for networking and sharing of experiences,

knowledge and information on best practices of financing road maintenance in Africa. It supports promotion and strengthening of ties amongst Road Funds in Africa and ensures sustainability and advocacy with road sector institutions towards adequate financing of roads.



EXCO Members during a field trip to Nairobi Expressway Command Centre



The early stages of construction and upgrading of Toll Infrastructure at Maputsoe bridge

Road Fund embarks on construction and upgrading of Toll Infrastructure

With the aim to improve road user experience through better operating facilities, the Road Fund has embarked on the improvement of three border gates through construction and upgrading of Caledonspoort Border, Maputsoe Border and

Maseru Bridge. Construction work commenced during the 2022-2023 financial year and below is progress for the three of them.

Construction and upgrading of Toll Infrastructure



The newly refurbished Caledonspoort Border in Butha-Buthe

at Caledonspoort Border approved contract amount is M1,660, 473.00. Progress is at 98% and amount paid to date is M1,681,497.59.

At Maseru Bridge, construction and upgrading of Toll Infrastructure has been budgeted M7,214,758.63, progress is at 52% with a total of M3,763,268.35.

On the other hand, construction and upgrading of Toll Infrastructure at Maputsoe Border has been budgeted for M9,007, 603.20 while progress is at 98% with a total of M8,510,078.03 paid to date.

When all is complete, the total cost will be over M17 Million.



The newly refurbished Toll Booths at Maputsoe Border



The Plant and Design Build of the Maintenance and Repair of the A1 Road from 'Malesaoana to Butha- Buthe Circle

Road Works sponsored by Road Fund-Implementation by Roads Directorate

The Road Fund is sponsoring two key projects being implemented by the Roads Directorate. The Plant and Design Build of the Maintenance and Repair of the A1 Road from 'Malesaoana to Butha- Buthe Circle entails Resurfacing of Main North 1 from Ha 'Malesaoana to Butha- Buthe Circle.

The ongoing maintenance work has to date cost the Road Fund over M 108 614 163.08 while the approved budget for the project is M M214 335

014,78. The project is being implemented by China Geo Engineering Corporation under the supervision of Roads Directorate.

Another project that is in progress and is being implemented by Roads Directorate is the Plant and Design Build Construction of temporary structure, demolition of existing bridge, design and reconstruction of bridge across Tsoaing river along B25-03. The project entails construction of

temporary crossing structure, demolition of existing bridge and construction of a new bridge.

The project is ongoing with the approved budget of M61 606 768.16 and a total of M7 619 476.34 has been spend by the Road Fund to date.

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.

A11



The Plant and Design Build of the Maintenance and Repair of the A1 Road from 'Malesaoana to Butha- Buthe Circle



Sod Turning for Plant and Design Build Construction of Tsoaing Bridge



Progress on Plant and Design Build Construction of Tsoaing Bridge



Road Works sponsored by Road Fund-Implementation by Roads Directorate

The Prime Minister Mr. Ntsokoane Matekane launched Street Lighting of A1 road Main Circle to Lakeside

Road Fund has sponsored three projects to rehabilitate artificial road lighting along the A1, A2 and Kingsway Roads.

A4

The recently completed project which is the rehabilitation of artificial street lighting of the

A1 Road lighting, was completed and launched by the Prime Minister Mr. Ntsokoane Matekane. The Project which costed the Road Fund about M5,1 Million involved a total of 47 street lights over a 1.8kms road from the main circle in Maseru down to the Lakeside Intersection along the main North



Street lighting of A1 Road Main Circle to Lakeside

1 road.

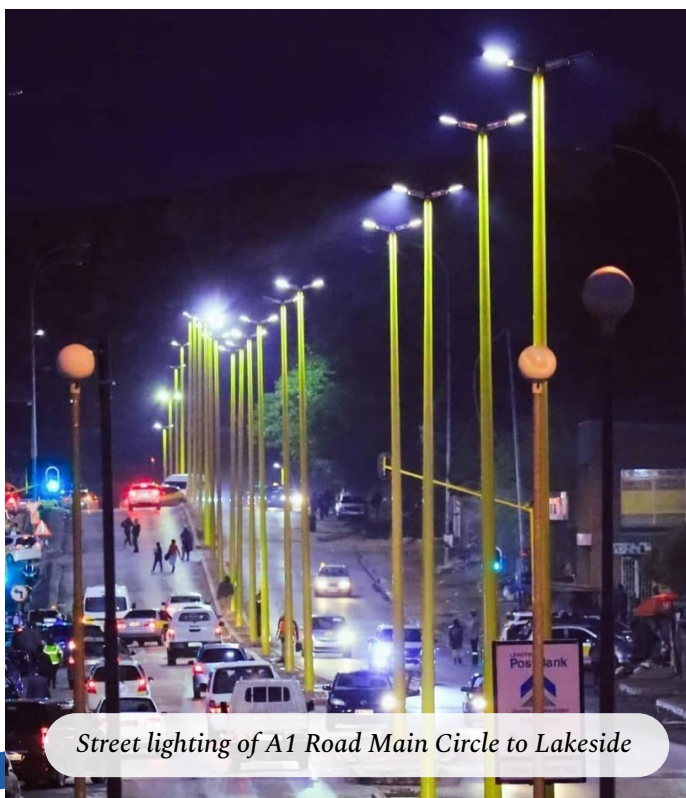
Another project to rehabilitate road lighting has commenced and is along the A2 Road from the main circle to Thabong circle. This project is anticipated to cost over M6,6 Million when completed.

The third project sponsored by the Road Fund is maintenance and repair of Kingsway artificial road lighting, and this one focuses on improving lighting along the Kingsway Road. It has been budgeted

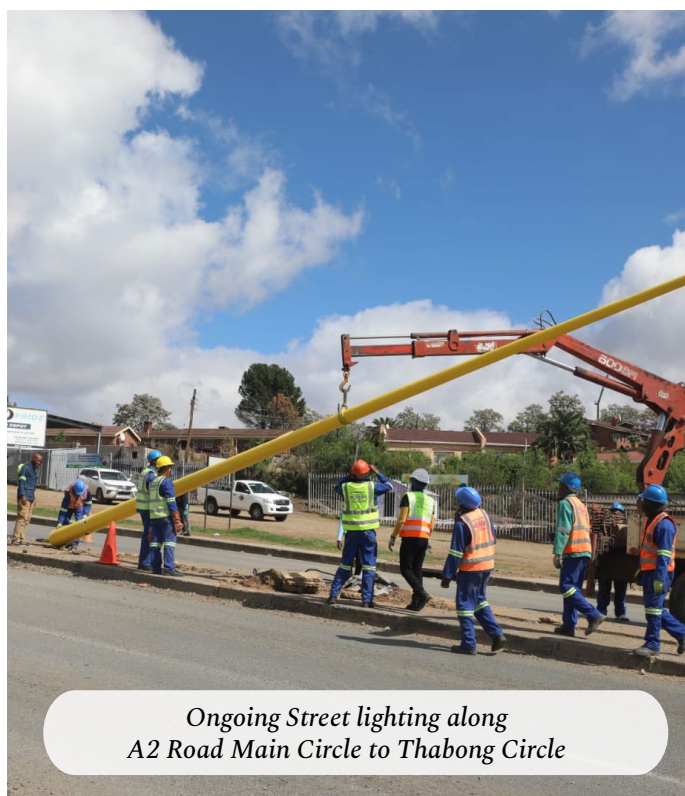
around M3,3 Million to completion.

There are plans to also construct street lights along the Kofi Annan Road as well as around Thetsane leading to the hospital area. All these projects are meant to improve mobility while ensuring safety of all road users at all times when using these roads.

A total of M26 Million has been set aside by the Road Fund for the financial year to sponsor these projects implemented by Roads Directorate.



Street lighting of A1 Road Main Circle to Lakeside



Ongoing Street lighting along A2 Road Main Circle to Thabong Circle



Road Fund Staff at the Wellness Session

Employees encouraged to strive for work-life balance

Road Fund employees have been encouraged to strive for work-life balance; as a healthy work-life balance allows everyone to excel at work and take care of their personal wellbeing while on duty and outside of the office.

Speaking at a recent Wellness session for Road Fund staff, Dr. Tšepang Majara, a Counsellor and founder of Mind Liberation Psychology Consultancy said maintaining a healthy work-life balance is not only important for health and relationships, but it can also improve one's productivity, and ultimately performance.

He said people need to remember to take leave to rest in order to recuperate, adding that this will help them avoid burnout, chronic illnesses and

anger issues thereby making fewer mistakes and becoming advocates for the Road Fund brand.

Talking about attitude, Dr. Majara said keeping a positive attitude in the workplace, even when the workload is demanding cannot be over emphasized, and this skill that needs to be practiced and perfected.

Addressing the issue of bullying, he said the workplace should be a mentally safe environment for everyone, saying that no employee should be made uncomfortable to come to work, or approach colleagues or even make inputs or suggestions in a meeting or any set up.

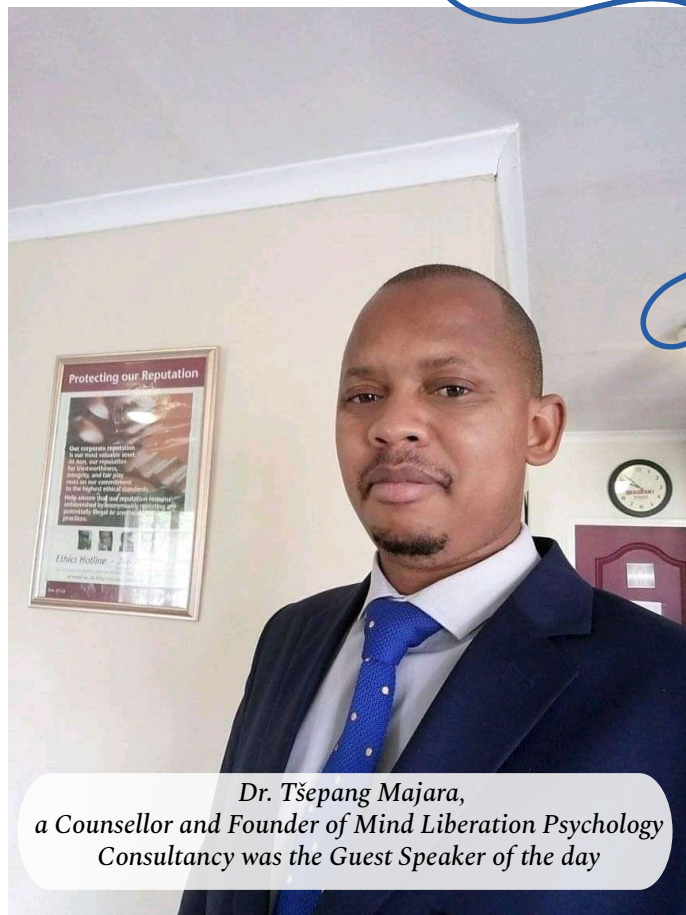
He concluded by encouraging staff to stay active for

body, mind and soul, explaining that whether it is going to the gym or merely taking a walk, moving one's body purifies the soul.

As part of activities for the day, Metropolitan Lesotho also raised awareness about financial literacy, enhancing the employees level of knowledge and understanding about personal finance, including budgeting, saving, investing, debt management, and retirement planning.

The Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara acknowledged guidance from Dr. Majara and Metropolitan Lesotho. He applauded them reviving the working spirit amongst the Road Fund employees, by addressing key issues that affect everyday life, including financial matters.

Workplace wellness is a combined effort of health promotion by employers, employees, and society to create overall mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing for the people at work.



*Dr. Tšepang Majara,
a Counsellor and Founder of Mind Liberation Psychology
Consultancy was the Guest Speaker of the day*



Road Fund Staff Members feeling rejuvenated after the Wellness Session



Motimposo Primary School Choir performed during the ceremony

Road Fund enhances learning environment for students

Giving back to the community remains high in Road Fund's agenda, and this time focus was on enhancing the learning environment for students at Motimposo Primary School in Maseru, through donation of hundred (100) two-seater desks to the School.

When handing over the donation, the Road Fund Chief Executive Officer Mr. Nkekeletse Makara, expressed his gratitude that Road Fund was able to respond positively to the request by the School, saying that they should consider themselves lucky that they were successful amongst the influx of

requests for sponsorship that the Road Fund receives on a daily basis.

"I hope that the school desks will improve the lives of the students by providing healthy and comfortable learning environment. I am calling to the teachers and the students to take good care of this property so that it can be used for a longer time," added Mr. Makara.

He concluded by encouraging the students to never despair in order to succeed in life, adding that he has hope that with the upgraded learning environment



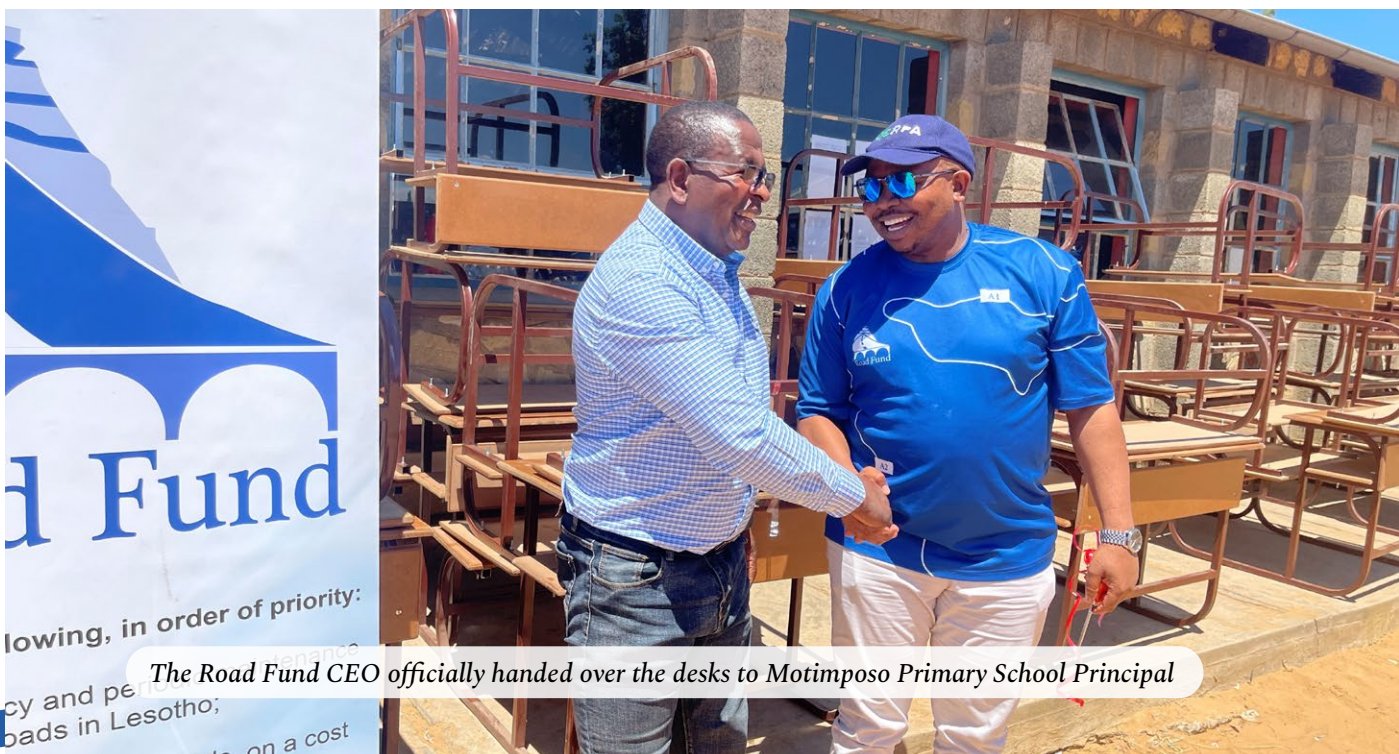
Road Fund CEO with the Ministry of Education and Training Officials and School Board Members

they will work hard to improve the results of the School for the better.

Accepting the donation, Motimposo Primary School Principal, Mr. Mafanti Mafanti expressed his gratitude to Road Fund, adding that the desks have come at an opportune time and are a relief to both teachers and students as they will help to improve

the standard of teaching and learning for all.

“We are thankful and humbled at the same time, this has brought so much joy to the School, our hope is that this is only the beginning of good things to come our way. I am pleading with the students and the community to care for this donation as it does not only belong to the school but also to the community at large and therefore all should join



The Road Fund CEO officially handed over the desks to Motimposo Primary School Principal

hands in protecting it,” he reiterated. On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Training, Mrs. Seriti Morojele thanked Road Fund for the donation, adding that the Ministry is very excited and pleased with what Road Fund has done.

She said the Ministry is under a lot of pressure because there are many schools with a lot of different challenges which unfortunately cannot be addressed all at once, adding that Road Fund did not just help School and but the Ministry as well.

Other Speakers at the ceremony namely the

Chairperson of the School Board Mr. Mabathoana Khotle and Maria ‘Mabasotho Pastoral Center Fr. Ramotinyane Tampane reiterated their appreciation to the donation and positive impact it will bring to the School’s learning environment.

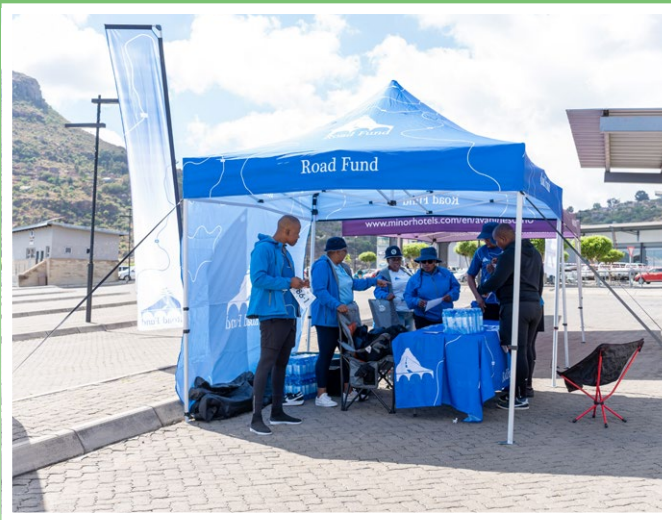
“Blessed is the hand that gives than the one that receives, may God bless Road Fund so that they continue to donate to the less fortunate,” Fr. Tampane concluded.

The assistance was done under the Road Fund’s Corporate Social Responsibility programme to a



Road Fund Staff Members during the ceremony

Annual Corporate Challenge Event



Annual Corporate Challenge Event





Road Fund

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