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WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THE MAPUTO CORRIDOR FIRST CHOICE FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS
TRABALHANDO JUNTOS PARA TORNAR O CORREDOR DE MAPUTO PRIMEIRA ESCOLHA

Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative

DR PHOSA – ADDRESS TO THE MCLI MAPUTO CORRIDOR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY WORKING GROUP MEETING: 5 FEBRUARY 2010

On behalf of MCLI and our board I would like to extend a warm welcome to you on this second day of this very important workshop, which continues to focus on important areas on our corridor - to support and promote operational efficiencies and in so doing, reduce the cost of freight transport and the cost of doing business in the region

I am delighted to hear of the widely represented presence and active participation from both the public, private and diplomatic sectors over these two days.

The feedback of success of day one, where you dealt with specific updates on the Port of Maputo master plan, TRAC's report of continued growth through the toll plazas around the border post and Maputo, customs modernisation updates from Mozambique and progress and other planning and implementation issues on the

One Stop Border Post project, are extremely gratifying to me, knowing the passion with which the MCLI team has been working towards progress on the 24 Hour One Stop Border Post and all the tabled matter. I am known to be quoted that when transport stops the economy stops.

The increased volumes reported by both the port of Maputo and TRAC, in spite of the recently ended world economic recession is proof of the huge potential this strategic corridor has, linking our two beloved countries.

I want to urge and encourage our bi-lateral leading agencies, as well as all the other departments involved, in this crucial OSBP project to keep the newly demonstrated momentum going, by ensuring the immediate 24 hours opening of our border post for freight and to ensure that the target to have the border post de-congested before the World Cup Soccer is met and to continue the focus to strive for operational efficiencies there after.

The MCLI proposal for formalised co-operation and participation in the One Stop Border Post Communication Committee as tabled by our CEO, Brenda Horne-Ferreira carries my full support and we look forward to have this Terms of Reference finalised as a matter

of high priority to ensure full transparency and open communication to all stakeholders.

The cooperation between MCLI and the newly launched international first bi-lateral, bi-lingual “Border Post” newspaper will provide the ideal platform, amongst others, to ensure the communication of this unique Public Private Communication Committee reaches literally every user along the Maputo Corridor.

Today will address the very important matter of transit freight flows, and rail issues with a specific focus on transit import and export policies and procedures and the plans for rail to fully support the potential of the port of Maputo through the necessary infrastructure, service level and pricing policies.

I am here personally to make an appeal on our revenue authorities as well as Transnet Freight Rail and CFM to see these discussions in the light of its seriousness and the wider economy to optimise our corridor infrastructure investments and in so doing the support of both our countries national imperatives.

Further more I urge each and every participant to make use of this opportunity to table any operational issues which negatively

impacts on the efficiency of the bi-directional flow of freight on our corridor which MCLI will take to the relevant public sector stakeholders to find solutions.

2010 is likely to be a challenging year, particularly for the transport industry as the economies in Africa make every effort to recover from the devastating effects of the economic downturn.

I have no doubt that the challenges with regard to our border can be met by the assertive and collective efforts through MCLI of public and private sector partners and that this partnership will see us through what lies ahead.

Phillips Brooks: Said: “Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; pray for powers equal to your tasks”.

I pray that all of us on this corridor, working together as we are doing at this workshop will be endowed with the power to equal our task of strengthening the operational efficiencies on our corridor, reducing the cost of transport, and supporting the economies of our two beloved countries, thus contributing the lives of the people of our region.