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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

### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE AGM

Welcome to the first Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative Annual General Meeting...

As you all know this initiative officially started over year and half ago, not that long, when one considers what has been achieved.

But let us go back to the beginning; it is never easy to start this type of initiative... when a project of this kind is first contemplated and conceptualized, one always encounters those clusters of negativism that concentrate on a million reasons why it will not succeed (and let me tell you, we did find them!!!), we all know that it is always easier to let the status quo prevail and do nothing about...or have our own agendas and egos that mislead us into thinking that we can go it alone...

And then there are those that can visualize and concentrate in the bigger picture, fortunately for this Initiative we found a group of genuine Champions, to you the members here represented and those that could not make it today, irrespective of your level of entry, we thank you for your support and contributions through the year and congratulate you in your vision...

You are the real Champions of this Initiative.

Some of us are critical of the achievements of MCLI to date, as expectations were much higher,

Nothing wrong with thriving for more, but let us be realistic and fair to the Initiative, with regards to the time to be taken in the resolution of the constrains, mainly when we consider that:

- There is the involvement of State Enterprises which both in South Africa and Mozambique have to fall within the National and/or Provincial Budget and Strategy programs, and
  
- That there was an initial skepticism by a specific group within private sector, aggravated by the passiveness and late submission of potential

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## Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative

volumes and trends, going through the borders of the Maputo region in order to allow MCLI to work towards a private sector motivation/justification in the resolution of the main constrains with the public sector.

What have we achieved since the inception of our initiative?

- Increased awareness and focused attention in our corridor:
  - By the use of the Regional and National media to propagate MCLI's so important objectives,
  - By organizing fact finding and introductory visits to Maputo Corridor's private investments in infrastructure, so essential to the growth of our region, roads and ports are good examples (let us hope rail follows soon),
- Recognition by the public and private sectors of MCLI as a medium of communication between these two sectors of our society,
- Identify main constrains through the organizing of the initial forums and more recently the creation of border, shipping and rail focus groups,

These are some of the achievements of MCLI, over a period of little more than a year, not a simple task when one considers that this initiative started from a zero base...

In conclusion we appeal to all the stakeholders of this corridor that have not yet made up their minds or are still skeptic about joining the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative to come forward and make a difference, broaden your vision and contribute positively to the growth of our region...

As we all know, that the successful challenge of a long and hard marathon run... is always dependent of that so crucial first step...

***Jorge F Ferraz***  
***Chairman***

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