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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



PRESS RELEASE

THURSDAY 18 MAY 2006



CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT TO THE AGM

On behalf of the board of MCLI I have the pleasure to welcome all present to the second Annual General Meeting of the Maputo Corridor Logistics Initiative.

The diversity of all of you present here today, from both the private and public sectors, emphasizes the success MCLI has had in its short existence to create a greater awareness of the strategic benefits of the Maputo Corridor for the freight logistics stakeholders of the region, as well as to create an environment for cooperation and communication between stakeholders on this very strategic Maputo Development Corridor.

The success of MCLI is solidly rooted in the spirit of working together of the relevant stakeholders from both the private and public sectors.

This Maputo Development Corridor would never have been in existence as it is today, if it were not for individuals with a dream of regional development and growth to improve the lives of the people of our region.

This dream could only be realized through the efforts of the organizations and individuals in both the private and public sectors, who took the challenge to drive the concessioning process of the transport infrastructure, namely the road; rail; ports and terminals. We as MCLI here today applaud each and every pioneer who has labored with commitment and firm belief in the future of this region, to make this Maputo Development Corridor a reality. We are very honored to have some of these distinguished individuals or their representatives present to participate in our commemorative discussions later today.

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So much has happened in such a relatively short period of time when one looks at the progress in line with international history. However, we cannot afford to sit back on our laurels since there is still much work to be done to ensure that the freight logistics capacity created through this pioneering process is fully optimized to the benefits of both the state, the private sector investors; service providers and users of this corridor.

Two elements that required our immediate and urgent action was the promotion of the Maputo Corridor as the **FIRST CHOICE** for the region's importers and exporters and secondly the coordination and communication of the views of the freight logistics stakeholders with the public sector, in a spirit of working together to ensure we achieve our goal of a fully optimized, affordable, efficient freight logistics route for the importers and exporters of our region. Successfully achieved, this will create an enabling environment to attract further investment and growth. MCLI was very effectively inaugurated to fill this gap and to ensure there is continuity in the focus of these two elements.

Without funding no success can be guaranteed and the 9 foundation members of MCLI must be applauded for their visionary thinking to financially cover the risk of the dream of MCLI towards a well promoted, coordinated and communicated corridor to ensure the full optimization of the transport infrastructure on this corridor.

We also want to thank our sponsors of today's event, who through their sponsorship underlined their believe in our efforts; our corridor and our region.

For successful engagement with the public sector and also for financial continuity it was necessary to have the mandate and financial support through membership of the wider stakeholder community and these organizations, currently totaling 70 members from both South Africa and Mozambique (and Swaziland soon to be included). These members must

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also be applauded for their belief in the effectiveness of MCLI and the opportunities of the corridor.

Since its inception, and particularly during the past year, MCLI has experienced a very much valued growing spirit of cooperation with the relevant departments within the public sector of both Mozambique; South Africa and Swaziland, without whose commitment and cooperation we labor in vain.

The past year has seen the confidence of the foundation directors grow in the Initiative to the extent that they have invited two very distinguished role players from the private sector as non-executive chairmen, representing both South Africa and Mozambique and the board meetings alternate between Maputo and Nelspruit to ensure that the two country focus is never lost.

The highlight of activities of MCLI for the past year certainly has to be the bringing to life and successful operation of the MCLI focus workgroups which created a platform of collaboration, communication and planning across the private sector, public sector and rail operators on issues around the rail capacity, the border crossing, direct container shipping lines calling the port of Maputo, as well the establishment of a formalized institutional framework.

We are very proud that as an outcome of this, the SA National Department of Transport has come on board with MCLI as a foundation member and it was they who requested MCLI to be the secretariat for the Mpumalanga Corridor Forum under the Provincial Roads and Transport Department of MEC Mahlalela, of which the Maputo Corridor is a major component, to facilitate the roll out the National Freight Logistics Strategy, thus ensuring that the transport infrastructure and planning, linking the province to our neighbouring countries and provinces, is well coordinated through this multi-lateral; multi-stakeholder forum.

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Equally gratifying was the inclusion by the Mozambique Transport Minister Antonio Munguambe of MCLI when he met last week to discuss issues with operators of the various undertakings involved in rail and port traffic, and to exchange information on the current state of the infrastructure and ways to overcome the lack of communication between the different operators.

I am also happy to inform all present that the board has decided to revise the membership fee structure to make it more affordable across the board for organizations to support MCLI. This structure was implemented on the first of March and I challenge all organizations present here, who are not yet members of this successful organization, to take the decision today to subscribe and to give us your mandate for the work that lies ahead.

The reason we are here today with all our distinguished guests is yes, to commemorate the pioneers of this historic corridor, but more than this, we want to look into the future and table those issues that are critical and resolve to ensure this Maputo Development Corridor ends up the successful reality of the dream of a decade ago.

Thank you for honouring us with your presence here today. I trust and believe that we can rely on all of you to continue to create a positive awareness and continue to make your valued contributions to ensure that the Maputo Corridor becomes the **FRST CHOICE** for all stakeholders.

Dr Matthews Phosa & Antonio Almeida Matos

Chairman

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