

**SPEECH BY PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MR KABELO
EBINENG AT THE BR INVESTOR BREAKFAST SEMINAR
ON THE 10TH DEC IN GABORONE, MASA HOTEL.**

- PROTOCOL
- SALUTATIONS!

1. I sincerely feel privileged to be in your company today engaging with you on a subject that could have far reaching impact in our economic activity for many generations to come.

2. I have been requested to come and deliver a keynote message at this ground-breaking Pitso/Indaba where Botswana Railways representing my Ministry is opening up a

dialogue with you Men and Women of business across the spectrum.

3. In our midst are experts and leading personalities and entrepreneurs from Banking, Mining, Asset and Property Management, Fund Managers, Construction and Railway Lines from neighbouring countries and abroad.

4. Barely two weeks ago I was invited by Botswana Railways to launch the logo for one of their subsidiaries being Sea Rail, the company that runs and manages our dry port in Namibia

5. On behalf of the government, I am happy to lend my full support for any initiative that is geared towards shaking up the economic activity of the country

6. These activities ladies and gentlemen, Director of Ceremonies give us a new sense of hope as we begin a new journey, a journey that will take us into the horizon...2036. The year 2036 bagaetsho is our new future where we want this country to be a beehive of economic activity.

7. I get a sense that Botswana Railways is having a good start and is in a position to power us into the envisaged high income economy by the year 2036.

8. When we appointed Mr. Leornard Makwinja and his Board we were very clear to them, the message to them was that as Shareholders we want value for money from Botswana Railways. Our message to them was very loud and clear

that you are going to expand our rail-line infrastructure and privatise Botswana Railways.

9. Master of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen I

am here today to reaffirm the shareholders position that Botswana Railways is in a strategic position to turn this hitherto 'landlocked' country into a hub for rail transport and logistics.

10. Two major projects which are the reason we are having this convention is the Moseitse-Kazungula Rail Way Line and the Mmamabula-Lephalale rail.

11. These are capital intensive projects that needed us to think outside the box and approach you the private sector so that we may find synergies and areas of collaboration.

12. You are all aware that the Kazungula bridge which has both the road and rail components is nearing completion hence the need for us to give impetus to the Moseitse-Kazungula Rail Line construction.
13. As a government this railway line is very strategic to our quest for regional integration, it will connect us with the rest of the North African Markets through Zambia.
14. The Mmamabula- Lephallale is another project that is so central to us as a government. I am also aware of the high appetite for this project within the coal mining entities as this will represent the shortest route for the North South Corridor.

15. Director of Ceremonies I would not want to steal the thunder from the presenters who will be coming shortly after me, mine was to come and reaffirm our position as government, that we are fully committed to this course and are fully behind Botswana Railways.

16. LETS ENGAGE...PULA BAGAETSHO...HAVE LOVELY DELIBERATIONS..