

WELCOME REMARKS TO THE BOTSWANA RAILWAYS BUSINESS BREAKFAST SEMINAR BY THE BR BOARDCHAIRMAN MR. ADOLPH HIRSCHFELD

Salutations, Order of Precedence

1. Director of Ceremonies, it is an absolute honour and privilege to welcome you all this morning to this prestigious occasion of the Botswana Railways Business Breakfast Seminar. On behalf of Botswana Railways Board, Management and staff I wish to extend my warm welcome to everyone here this morning.
2. At the onset I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for taking their time from I am sure their very busy schedules to come and share this moment with us. A special thanks to Maatla Energy for accepting to share the podium with us as one of the presenters, I acknowledge that they have taken time and made the extra effort to prepare the presentations and for this I wish to commend them.
3. We are all gathered here to join Botswana Railways as it embarks on a new journey of endless possibilities. Botswana Railways has come a long way since its establishment in 1987, and has played an important role in the socio-economic development of Botswana.

4. We are meeting to be apprised by BR on some of the envisaged projects in our country which we believe will stimulate this economy. It is my firm believe that the discussions that will ensue will provide a call to action, we will then all rise and endeavour to have a contribution to resuscitate the economy and assist this only rail services provider to perform their mandate of providing transport and logistics services efficiently, safely and cost-effectively, along sound commercial lines.

5. Having gone through different phases since Cecil John Rhodes laid the railway line back in 1897, Batswana have benefited a great deal from the railway. In today's session we take an opportunity to explore potential endeavours which will take the country even further. This forum creates a platform for investors and potential partners to know about Botswana Railways upcoming major projects being the 367km Moseitse to Kazungula rail line and the 56km Mmabula to Lephalale line.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, as we engage in discussions I implore with you to reflect on how we can capitalize on these impressive projects. It is important to look back and see how we can move forward to remain

competitive and transform the Organisation to the dictates of the market.

7. Bagaetsho, my task was to welcome you Distinguished Guests. On behalf of Botswana Railways I wish to once again extend a warm welcome to you. I hope you will find this event enjoyable and worth your time. We are grateful for your generous gesture, for having taken valuable time from your busy schedules and chose to come share this special moment with us.

8. With these few remarks I welcome you all to Botswana Railways.