

BUSINESS BOTSWANA PRESIDENT PAYS A COURTESY CALL TO THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE

The President of Business Botswana, Mr. Neo Nwako recently led a delegation to meet with the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Honourable Noah Salakae, to reinforce collaboration between the private sector and government, particularly in the Construction, Engineering, and Transport sectors. The aim of the visit was to discuss the role these sectors play in facilitating economic growth.



(L-R) Mr. Keorapetse Tshupelo, Construction Sector Chairperson; Mr. Neo Nwako, BB President; Mr. Mpaphi Tsholofelo, Head of Policy and Research; Ms. Gaonyatsege Kwakwa, Engineering Sector Chairperson

During the meeting, the respective sector chairpersons provided comprehensive overviews of the current state of their sectors, identifying key challenges and outlining strategies for future development. Mr. Nwako emphasised the organisation's ongoing commitment to working with the government to improve the ease of doing business in Botswana. He expressed optimism that the issues faced by various sectors would be addressed effectively, paving the way for a more conducive environment for private sector growth.

Additionally, he highlighted the continuous engagement between Business Botswana and the government, specifically regarding the implementation challenges of the Development Model (DM).

The Chairperson of the transport sector, Mr. Batsile Nwako informed the Minister on the challenges the sector has been facing with regards to the prolonged delay of the Transport Act, which has the potential to transform the country's transportation landscape and subsequently contribute to economic growth. He reiterated that the implementation of the Act should be prioritised, as it aligns with Botswana's long-term vision to develop a modern and efficient transport sector that can support the country's growing business ecosystems.

Other sector chairpersons shared their visions for their respective sectors and reaffirmed their commitment to working closely with the government to address challenges and improve operational efficiencies in their sectors.



(L-R) Mr. Disikalala Gaseitsiwe, Catalyst Project Team; Honourable Noah Salakae, Minister of Transport & Infrastructure

In response, Honourable Minister Salakae assured the delegation of the Ministry's unwavering commitment to facilitating partnership with the private sector. He emphasised that the Ministry's mandate is inherently linked to the success of the private sector, noting that a thriving business environment is essential for driving economic growth. Furthermore, the Minister acknowledged the challenges regarding the Development Model and assured Mr. Nwako that the government is fully aware of its concerns and will take the necessary steps to ensure effective facilitation for the private sector.

BUSINESS BOTSWANA CEO ENGAGES RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SECRETARIAT ON ENHANCING RURAL GROWTH

Business Botswana CEO and Rural Development Council (RDC) board member, Mr. Norman Moleele, recently met with the RDC team to discuss the growth and facilitation of rural councils in Botswana. The meeting aimed to assess whether the current investment incentives adequately support rural development and explore new strategies to attract businesses to rural areas.

During the meeting, Mr. Moleele provided an overview of Business Botswana's mandate, emphasising the organisation's commitment to facilitating private sector growth across the nation. He highlighted the network of Business Councils, now established in 15 localities, which serves as a vital platform for businesses to engage with the government through the Local Level Consultative Council (LLCC).

These councils work to address both opportunities and challenges faced by businesses within their respective regions, playing a key role in driving local economic development.

The discussion also delved into the challenges surrounding the implementation of existing investment incentives, particularly regarding procurement processes for businesses in rural areas. Mr. Mpaphi Tsholofelo, Head of Policy and Research at Business Botswana, noted that regional-specific incentives are essential, particularly for localities with a strong sectoral presence, such as agriculture in Ghanzi Region. Tailoring incentives to the strengths of different regions could unlock significant growth potential.



(L-R) Ms. Laone Morake, RDC Secretariat; Mr. Norman Moleele, BB CEO; Ms. Serufo Nsabane, Director for Rural Development; Ms. Lorraine Parry, RDC Secretariat

Mr. Moleele reiterated Business Botswana's commitment to collaborating with the government to facilitate private sector growth nationwide, ensuring Botswana remains competitive on the global stage. He called on the RDC secretariat to engage other stakeholders and re-evaluate strategies, such as the Middle-Class and the Rural Industry strategies, to further drive economic development in rural areas.

Business Botswana remains dedicated to supporting policies and initiatives that promote sustainable growth and create a thriving, diversified economy across the entire country.