

TRANSNET FREIGHT RAIL AND BOTSWANA RAIL COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE TRADE

Following the High Level South Africa – Botswana business roundtable, the two countries have agreed in principle on joint development initiatives to be implemented by Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) and Botswana Rail (BR), to improve inter-trade between the two countries.

The initiatives will allow landlocked Botswana to access South African ports in a more efficient manner.

The entities will collaborate to fix parts of the 126 km rail line between Swartruggens and Mafikeng, which will enable heavy haul trains travelling from Botswana to the ports of Richards Bay and Durban for export markets. This will be funded jointly by the two governments, with TFR and BR given the responsibility to implement the initiative. The objective is to have the project running in the next 24 months. The two entities will also build a connecting line from Mamabula in Botswana to Lephalale in Limpopo, currently running export coal to Richards Bay.

TFR and BR will further collaborate on security interventions to curb the scourge of cable theft and infrastructure vandalism, a rising problem in Botswana and rampant in South Africa, which impact the efficient running of trains.

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Issued on behalf of Transnet Freight Rail (TFR)

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