



1 President Mokgweetsi E. K. Masi



2 Vice President Slumber Tsogwane



3 From left: Vice President Slumber Tsogwane, President Mokgweetsi E. K. Masi, Minister of Transport and Public Works Eric Mothibi Molale



4 Minister of Transport and Public Works Eric Mothibi Molale



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President Mokgweetsi Masi officially launches Development Managers Projects

President Mokgweetsi E. K. Masi has officially launched a suite of infrastructure projects which are budgeted under the Transitional National Development Plan. These projects, which will be delivered through the Development Manager Model have been budgeted at **Thirteen Billion, Forty-Six Million, One Hundred and Eighty-Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Seven Pula (P13,046,184,707)**.

“This is a huge expenditure which demonstrates the commitment of the government to infrastructure development in this country,” said President Mokgweetsi Masi. He said, “I need to reiterate that our National Vision 2036 espouses that Botswana will be developed into a regional transport corridor, connecting people, goods and services with the best quality to realize this vision.”

Masi maintained that the Botswana Government will construct roads to connect settlements, open up production areas and open opportunities for further development. “We do this mindful of the need for affirmative action for those settlements that are far from developments. Our infrastructure has to add meaning and value to the lives of our citizens. We need our infrastructure to ease the cost of doing business and create wealth for Batswana,” said Masi.

Officials contend that they adopted the Development Manager Model in project delivery to address implementation challenges in infrastructure development. “We have over the years had problems with funding our infrastructure projects, compounded by failure to complete those projects that have been funded. The challenges are varied, but in the past these have led to loss of public funds and slow economic growth,” said Masi.

He said, “Despite good policies and strategies leading to properly identified projects through our planning process, there is insufficient competence in project management and implementation. Our implementation capacity is inadequate. There has also been a tendency to commit Government to huge contracts without qualified contract managers to vet and manage such contracts.”

In line with the RESET agenda, Government has adopted the Development Manager (DM) model in project delivery. The Development Managers will, on behalf of Government, manage the construction of projects from inception to close out. The Development Managers will carry construction related risks. This is a departure from the practice where Government was always carrying the burden of the construction risk, while contractors and consultants were getting paid for delayed projects and cost overruns.

The Development Managers will be bound to observe local procurement laws and policies; Citizens Economic Empowerment laws and will be required, in line with the RESET agenda, to source construction inputs locally which will further stimulate the economy and create jobs.

Officials revealed they will also be required to assist in growing citizen contractors to higher grades, and will be encouraged to employ youth and interns and assist them to grow professionally. To further improve oversight and facilitate the Development Managers, as well as protect the interests of the government, a Catalyst Project Team has been established to focus on the Development Managers projects. District based staff from all institutions of Government will be working closely with the Catalyst Project Team to improve project supervision. The Catalyst Project Team will be the Government’s Owners Engineers Team.

The Development Managers will not take away anybody’s jobs but will ensure that construction projects are completed on time, within budget and to the required quality and standard; without corruption. The Development Managers will appoint local contractors and consultants to undertake construction work. They will ensure the engagement of Citizen owned companies.

Eric Molale, Minister of Transport and Public Works revealed that 143 projects will be covered by the Development Managers model including big infrastructure projects like the Francistown Nata road, Lerala hospital and the Kasane hospital. Molale revealed that he Development Managers have been cautioned against hoarding of projects by few entities, warned against soliciting, insider trading and fronting during project execution, in consistency with the new procurement laws to further fairness and transparency.

“With the signing it means they have to start in earnest,” said Molale. He said, “We are now ready to start to be living by our word. They were signs of agitation and impatience. We are on it.”

