



SAFE ROADS TO PROSPERITY

**ROADS AUTHORITY
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NAMIBIA**

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DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT OF LOCAL CONTRACTORS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE NAMIBIAN ROAD NETWORK BY THE ROADS AUTHORITY

The Roads Authority (RA) is mandated, among others, to undertake the management of the national road network, including but not limited to the planning, designing, construction and maintenance of national roads in the Republic of Namibia.

In order to fulfil its responsibility of providing a safe and efficient road sector, the RA has established policies and strategies that develop and enhance the capacity of key service providers, especially the Contractors and SMMEs who execute both capital and labour-based road projects across the country.

In the past five years, eighty-four (84) Namibian Contractors and four hundred and forty-two (442) local SMMEs carried out road maintenance works under the RA. During the same period, new gravel roads were constructed by eleven (11) Emerging Contractors with participation of forty-five (45) SMMEs. This includes nine (9) labour-based gravel roads and twenty-five (25) access roads to schools and clinics.

Established in terms of the Roads Authority Act, 1999 (Act 17 of 1999)

Board of Directors: Mr B. Katjaerua (Chairperson), Ms E. Motinga (Deputy Chairperson), Ms L. Brandt, Mr C. Smith, Mr T. Nashidengo

For capital projects, twenty-three (23) roads were upgraded to bitumen standards, of which six (6) were done by Namibian Contractors, while nine (9) other Namibian Contractors participated as Joint Venture partners with foreign Contractors. The remaining eight (8) projects were done by foreign Contractors. During the construction of these road projects, three hundred and thirty-nine (339) Namibian entities participated as sub-Contractors and SMMEs.

During the works for construction and maintenance on all RA road projects, 13 607 employment opportunities were created for Namibians. This is in line with the RA's SME Development Policy which takes cognizance of the fact that, creating employment is one of the major national development goals of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

In terms of participation of Namibian versus foreign Contractors, over the past five years, the RA executed road works to the value of approximately N\$16.5 billion. Out of this amount, a total of N\$9.25 billion value of works were executed by local Contractors, translating to approximately 56.06% of the value benefiting local Contractors while foreign Contractors and Namibian/Foreign joint ventures executed N\$7.25 billion (43.94%).

For bigger capital projects, the RA has advocated the awarding of road projects to Joint Ventures between well-established Namibian and International road contractor companies, primarily on the premise of skills transfer, capacity building and growing the Namibian road construction industry. These efforts will continue to benefit local Contractors.

Furthermore, over the past five years, 154 Namibian SMMEs and emerging Contractors were trained and awarded competency certificates after successful completion of their training.

The RA has been, and is still committed to the empowerment and promotion of the participation of local Contractors in all our road construction projects. Therefore, RA has taken an initiative which will result in the classification of its service providers for carrying out road projects according to their various levels taking into account the size of the business, financial capability, human resources, equipment and machinery. The classification of Contractors in the roads sub-sector will aim at establishing a list of pre-qualified Contractors that will be eligible for the participation in various project types, related to the respective categories of Contractors.

The classification of Contractor's framework will ensure fair competition and promoting participation of small, medium and large Contractors in road projects in Namibia as well as to ensure improved quality and high standards of the entire road infrastructure. The classification of Contractors' framework Study is ongoing and consultations are taking place with all relevant key stakeholders. It is anticipated that this Study will be completed and ready for implementation during the 2019/2020 Financial Year.

Last but not least, over the past five years, the RA constructed and improved its operational facilities (Weighbridges and office accommodation) during which 100% of works, valued at N\$283,752,192.48, was carried out by seventeen (17) Namibian Contractors and SMMEs, resulting in the creation of 486 jobs for Namibians.

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