



LUSAKA-NDOLA DUAL CARRIAGE WAY BIGGEST PPP ROAD PROJECT IN AFRICA

Liberian President Joseph Boakai has called on African states to strengthen their Road Funds in the wake of private sector participation in road infrastructure development.

And National Road Fund Agency (NRFA) Vice Board Chairperson Joseph Malisawa has acknowledged growing international interest in Zambia's Public Private Partnership (PPP) road infrastructure programme which reflects the country's steady progress in leveraging private sector investment without exerting undue pressure on the national treasury.

Addressing the 22nd Africa Road Maintenance Funds Association Annual General Assembly (ARMFA) in Monrovia, Liberia, last week, which was attended by the NRFA, President Boakai stated that Africa must now plan and finance its roads together and build an integrated network serving serving the African Continental Free Trade Area and sustainable growth.

He said no sustainable transformation of the road sector could be achieved without strong bilateral and multilateral cooperation among states and the participation of the private sector in investment, maintenance and management of road infrastructure.

President Boakai said there was need for an institutional synergy between States and strengthened Road Funds, a technical synergy between engineers and universities and a financial synergy between governments, donors and the private sector.

And speaking on the sidelines of the ARMFA Annual General Assembly, Mr. Malisawa said Zambia had made significant strides ahead of most of the 35 ARMFA member states and cited the construction of the Lusaka Ndola Dual carriage way under Macro Ocean Investment Consortium as one of the biggest PPP road projects in Africa.

Mr. Malisawa said other nations were seeking to benchmark against Zambia's PPP road financing model and echoed President Boakai's sentiment that well- structured partnerships could accelerate economic development, enhance regional trade connectivity and improve overall efficiency of public service delivery.

Meanwhile NRFA Director and Chief Executive Officer Daniel Mtonga said some of the lessons learnt from the general assembly were for road fund administrators to innovate and broaden revenue streams for road infrastructure development from traditional sources of funding.

The General Assembly brought together top road infrastructure policy makers and institutions such as the World Bank, Africa Development Bank (AfDB) United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), International Road Assessment Programme (iRAP) and the International Road Federation (IRF).