



# CORRIDOR

electronic newsletter of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group



WALVIS BAY  
CORRIDOR  
GROUP

The leading trade route in Southern Africa

September/October 2008

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Cover picture:  
Mobile Harbour Crane seen in  
action at the Port of Walvis Bay

## FROM THE EDITOR

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Welcome to yet another exciting edition of our newsletter. Someone once asked how do you encourage someone to change his daily route between work and home, while this has been the practice for a long time? The same perception applies to the Walvis Bay Corridors, therefore, we are aware of this challenge, and as a result we are continuously promoting the fact that there is an alternative route which can offer you time savings, efficiency, and reliability, along the Walvis Bay Corridors via the Port of Walvis Bay. Through this the Walvis Bay Corridor Group is committed in remaining a supporting role in SADC to enhance regional economic development and integration.

In this edition we will be focusing on the promotional activities that took place during the past two months; proving that nothing is impossible to handle along the Walvis Bay Corridors; a world leader in container shipping calling at the Port of Walvis Bay; the official opening of the WBCG Gauteng office; news from our Safe Trade and Transport Corridor Programme and from the HIV/AIDS Help Desk.

We thank our members for adding value to our newsletter by submitting news and please feel free to forward any comments or suggestions you may have.

*Agnetha*

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WBCG Head Office  
Tel: +264 61 251669  
Fax: +264 61 251683  
Email: [marketing@wbcg.com.na](mailto:marketing@wbcg.com.na)

WBCG Zambia  
Tel/Fax: +260-21-241329  
Email: [wbcg@coppernet.zm](mailto:wbcg@coppernet.zm)

WBCG South Africa  
Tel: +27 11 4188326  
Fax: +27 11 8227196/0866929537  
Email: [wbcg@officejunction.co.za](mailto:wbcg@officejunction.co.za)

[www.wbcg.com.na](http://www.wbcg.com.na)

## THE TRANS CAPRIVI CORRIDOR CARRIES THE MOST COMPLEX CONSIGNMENT

Trade Ocean Shipping Namibia, a member of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG), has recently secured two shipments from Kaliningrad, in Russia which was destined for Zambia. The shipment consisted of 3,600 tons of ammonium nitrate, which was the first of its kind that the Port of Walvis Bay has ever handled. The shipment took only two days to discharge and it was done during normal working hours to release the shipment. Thereafter, the cargo was evacuated immediately from the Port. Total evacuation of cargo from Walvis Bay to Zambia took 3 weeks. The second shipment is still due to arrive at the Port of Walvis Bay before the end of this year.

Ms Michelle Kirov, the Manager of Trade Ocean Shipping Namibia, stated. "We would like to thank the Corridor Group and Namibian Ports Authorities for their co-operation in facilitating this complex operation. All in all, it was a smooth and successful operation that was made possible by the efforts of everyone involved (Stevedores, transporters, warehouse operators, customs, Chief of Explosives and Walvis Bay, Fire Department and our client of course). We are proud to be part of this operation and we will continue to provide a service of the highest quality",

In light of the above, it is clear that the Walvis Bay Corridors via the Port of Walvis Bay has been increasingly become the alternative trade route for all imports and exports and at the same time proving to be efficient and reliable.



Ammonium Nitrate being loaded onto the Baltic Navigator vessel



Ammonium Nitrate being off loaded onto the trucks at the Port of Walvis Bay



Trucks en route destined for Zambia along the Trans Caprivi Corridor

## THE WALVIS BAY-NDOLA-LUBUMBASHI CORRIDOR IS RE-BORN

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A tripartite meeting on the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor was held at the Governor's office of the Katanga Province in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2008. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the three governments, namely Mr Pamphile Ilunga Fingwafingwa, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, DRC, Mr David Kema from the Ministry of Communications and Transport, Zambia and His Excellency Ambassador Ringo Abed, the Namibian Ambassador to DRC Embassy, representatives from the WBCG as well as representatives from the private sector. The meeting was officially opened by the Provincial Minister of Infrastructure, Urbanism and Transport of Katanga, His Excellency Fridolin Kasweshi Musoka.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and finalize the Memorandum of Understanding for the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Corridor to be concluded by the governments of DRC, Zambia and Namibia. This follows a promotional visit which was embarked upon by the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) to the DRC in September, last year.

Prior to the establishment of the WBCG there were a number of bottlenecks affecting the smooth flow of goods and people of the Trans Caprivi Corridor (TCC). These bottlenecks included amongst others, customs, immigration, poor road infrastructures and a number of redundant check points. This led to the need for the establishment of a TCC Cluster by the Namibian and Zambian Governments which comprises of members from customs authorities, immigration, shipping agencies, transport association and



clearing and forwarding agents, which took effect after the WBCG was established in 2003. The formation of a TCC Cluster produced favourable results, amongst others, funding has been secured to strengthen & widen the Divundu bridge in Namibia for abnormal cargo; axle loads between Namibia and Zambia have been harmonized; border operating hours harmonized; fewer check points; the visas for commercial vehicle drivers have been extended from three months to twelve months to mention but a few. Following the success of the TCC Cluster, there was a need to extend it even further to include the DRC which resulted in the formation of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Management Corridor to oversee the operational side of the TCC which links the Port of Walvis Bay to the DRC. The importance behind the "development of this corridor is to promote economic development, through trade, investment and tourism for the mutual benefit of not only the three participating countries, but also for the benefit of the SADC region at large", said His Excellency Ringo Abed, Ambassador of Namibia to the DRC.

Cargo along the Trans Caprivi Corridor, via the Port of Walvis Bay, has increased by more than 156.9% last year, 2007.



## NAMPORT ACQUIRES A FOURTH MOBILE CRANE

A mobile harbour crane for the Port of Walvis Bay was acquired by Namport, and arrived early in October 2008, accumulating to an amount of four mobile harbour cranes. This acquisition resulted from the increased business confidence shown in utilizing the Walvis Bay Corridors and the Port of Walvis Bay which makes it necessary to further reduce turnaround times of container vessels calling at the Port of Walvis Bay to improve efficiency and add capacity.

The newly acquired mobile harbour crane allows the Cargo department to off load containers in the 16<sup>th</sup> row on the vessel which is three deeper than the current cranes. It further assists the operators of the mobile harbour cranes to improve control by reducing the swaying of the containers as well as allowing op-

erators to program specific loading points during the operation whereby the crane returns to these points automatically.

The continuous increase in cargo volumes along the Walvis Bay Corridors and the Port of Walvis Bay leads the port to continuously focus their efforts on further productivity improvements to meet the customer service level requirements as expected from a world class port, in terms of handling container vessels.

It is apparent that the confidence in utilizing the Walvis Bay Corridors via the Port of Walvis Bay has increased which has resulted in the Port investing in adding capacity and improving efficiency to meet the



Mobile Harbour Cranes at the Port of Walvis Bay

## WALVIS BAY CORRIDOR GROUP OPENS OFFICE IN GAUTENG

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The Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) has officially launched their office in Gauteng this week, to create a strong business presence in South Africa, which is an expansion of the WBCG office in Windhoek, Namibia, with the aim of promoting the utilization of the Walvis Bay Corridors via the Port of Walvis Bay, to and from the Southern African region, as the preferred trade route. The event was held at the Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg.



From Left to right: Johny M. Smith; His Honourable Jeffrey Radebe (Minister of Transport, RSA); Mr Sebby Kankondi (Chairman of the WBCG)

The WBCG Gauteng office was officially launched by the Minister of Transport of South Africa, His Honourable Jeffrey Thamsanqa Radebe and Mr Sebby Kankondi, the Managing Director of Namport. "...a working private public partnership, the Walvis Bay Corridor Group is unique in the region and therefore it is imperative that citizens of our countries make use of it given the fast approaching SADC regional integration. With the immense growth that we are experiencing in South Africa and most specifically most of them in the Gauteng region, South Africa is proud to

note that Namibia, through Walvis Bay is taking a supporting role in SADC to enhance regional economic development and integration," His Honourable Jeffrey Radebe said. Speaking on behalf of the Namibian High Commissioner to South Africa, the Commercial Counsellor, Ms Bonaventura Hinda said that "...in any business undertaking time is money and improvements are critical for private sector growth and for governments to generate revenues to meet the social needs of our societies. The Ministry of Works and Transport of Namibia has invested a substantial amount of money since Namibia gained her Independence to link Namibia with its neighbours in order to provide vital links to support increasing opportunities of trade links between SADC and the rest of the world. This linkage therefore provides us with the opportunity to add value to consumers in the region by delivering their products timeously and effi-



His Honourable Jeffrey Radebe (Minister of Transport, RSA) and Mr Sebby Kankondi (Chairman of the WBCG) unveiling the commemorative plaque

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efficiently.”

Stakeholders, who included business people such as road hauliers, freight forwarders, shipping lines, importers and exporters and government agencies, were treated to presentations which were delivered by Mr Elias Mwenyo, the Sales and Services Man



Elias Mwenyo delivering his presentation

ager of Namport, on the Port expansion plan and by Mr Johny Smith, the Business Development Executive of the WBCG on the advantages of utilizing the

Walvis Bay Corridors with special emphasis on the Trans Kalahari Corridor. The Trans Kalahari Corridor



Zunaid Pochee as Director of Ceremonies

Management Committee Co-Chair of South Africa, Mr Thabiso Mahlaha, presented the highlights that have been achieved in cross border facilitation, that allows for efficient customs operations and faster



Hostesses posing presenting the key elements, printed on the sashes, of the WBCG

transport along the Trans Kalahari Corridor. Amongst them being SAD 500, adoption of common transit procedures, extension of border operating hours and harmonization of axle load limits.



Guests listening attentively to the various benefits that the WBCG has to offer

The Trans Kalahari Corridor provides Gauteng and Botswana access to the Port of Walvis Bay and allows 48 hours transit time from the Port of Walvis Bay to the final destination.

## THE WALVIS BAY CORRIDOR GROUP CREATES AWARENESS IN GABORONE, BOTSWANA

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The Walvis Bay Corridor Group hosted an information session which was held at the Gaborone Sun Hotel in Botswana, recently. The purpose of this event was to inform potential and existing Trans Kalahari Corridor users as to the benefits of utilising this corridor as an alternative trade route for Botswana via the Port of Walvis Bay.

The well attended event was officially opened by the First Secretary of the High Commission of the Republic of Namibia to Botswana, Emmanuel Hamunyela. The keynote address was delivered by the Assistant Minister of Works and Transport of Botswana, His Honourable Mr Frank Ramsden. In his keynote address he stated that, “The development of the Trans Kalahari Corridor presents a good opportunity for the enhanced utilisation of the Port of Walvis Bay by Botswana and other SADC countries.” Key stakeholders from both private and public sectors were treated to presentations by the Sales and Service Manager of the Port of Walvis Bay focusing on the Port expansion plan, by the Business Development Manager of the WBCG South Africa office focusing on the Walvis Bay Corridor Opportunity and by the Trans Kalahari Corridor Management Committee (TKCMC) Secretariat, who were presented with the competitive advantages of utilising the Trans Kalahari Corridor. Among them being the extension of border operating hours along all the borders on the Trans Kalahari Corridor, the introduction of the Single Administration Document (SAD 500), which ensures commercial traffic clearance of between 20 to 30 minutes at the border points on the corridor, and the recent launch of the feasibility study on the One Stop Border Post.



From left to right: Mr Emmanuel Hamunyela (First Secretary of the Namibian High Commissioner to Botswana; Elias Mwenyo; His Honourable Frank Ramsden (Assistant Minister of Works and Transport of Botswana; Zunaid Pochee



Registration at the WBCG “border”



Guests listening attentively to the presentations



## NATIONAL CONDOM USE AWARENESS WEEK

The Walvis Bay based WBCG Peer Educators Support Group Forum conducted a five-day campaign to celebrate the effectiveness of the condom in preventing unintended pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The awareness campaign was organized during the week of 18 – 22 August 2008 as a curtain raiser to the National Condom Use Day (22 August 2008).

The group designed and implemented this great concept by visiting all the WBCG member companies based at the coastal town of Walvis Bay with the aim of educating the workforce on correct and consistent condom use while also distributing HIV/AIDS related information materials.

According to the principal event coordinator Mr. Trubo Andreas, the response from the companies was overwhelming and it was encouraging to note that most of the companies targeted were from the transport sector. He also noted that a total of 449

employees were reached with prevention messages through this campaign.

The WBCG HIV/AIDS Help Desk was on hand to provide support in terms of educational materials, like the condom demonstration models, printed materials and condoms.

This remarkable initiative was well received by all the other involved stakeholders including the Erongo District AIDS Committee. The Support Group and the Help Desk would like to express its profound appreciation to the following companies and institutions for their unwavering support in making this campaign a remarkable success: Transworld Cargo, Unitrans, F.P. du Toit Transport, Wesbank Transport, Rennies Consolidate, Ministry of Finance, Walcon Construction, Namport, Manica, Social Security Commission, TransNamib Holdings, Jowells Transport and the District AIDS Committee.



Employees receiving education on the correct usage of condoms

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## TRANSPORT SAFETY & SECURITY AND THE 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

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WBCG was participatory to the Transport Safety and Security Conference held under the theme “Transport Solutions for 2010 & beyond” in Pretoria from 27-28 August. The conference was designed to share and update information from all facets of the transportation safety and security community especially at this time when Southern Africa is preparing for the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Accordingly, concerns were raised whether Southern Africa and South Africa in particular is organized safety and security wise to host the event.

Safety and security issues are not solely critical issues to human mobility but also to the transportation of goods. The 2010 FIFA World Cup is certainly raising the safety and security benchmarks for the region. It is expected that by 2010 trade in the region will be more advanced, tourism will increase, so the transportation of goods and services. Our corridors

are not far-fetched from this reality. As a result, considerable efforts, investment and resources have been focused on improving safety on our roads, highways and corridors. As the development of transport systems in Southern Africa is closely connected with problems of providing safety of transport multi-modal complexes which are the most important objects of economic safety of the country, the conference focused on raising the transport equilibrium, effectiveness of safety of transport system functioning, which provides the most important interests of the country.

The 2010 FIFA World Cup is a collective responsibility for Southern Africa and if we fail in providing safe and secure transportation, it will be a shared downfall. Therefore, it is expected of all stakeholders to play a critical role in securing a safer and secure transport for 2010 and beyond.

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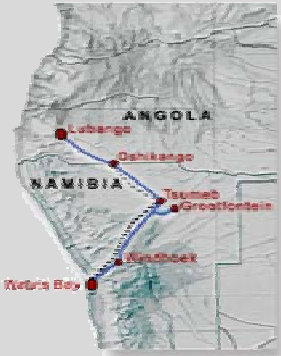
## WALVIS BAY CORRIDOR GROUP WELCOMES NEW RECRUIT



Gilbert Boois joined the Walvis Bay Corridor Group on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008, as Manager: Projects and Funding. He was born and bred in Windhoek. Gilbert has fifteen years of experience within the public and private sector in Financial Accounting, Project Finance and Management, Short-term Insurance,

Human Resources Management and Payroll Administration and holds a National Certificate in Cost Accounting from the Polytechnic of Namibia, a Post-graduate Programme in Workplace Transformation from the University of Manchester, UK and a Diploma in Human Resources Management from the Business Management Training College of Southern Africa. Gilbert is happily married for twelve years with a son and daughter. His responsibilities at WBCG include Project Management, Mobilization of Project Funding, Stakeholder Management, Cross Border Facilitation, and Reporting on Project Development and Funding. Gilbert says it takes 40% of information and 60% of interpretation to translate information into business value according to Accenture Consultants. His motto: Strategy, Passion and Execution.

## WALVIS BAY CORRIDOR FACT SHEET TRANS CUNENE CORRIDOR



The Trans Cunene Corridor operated by the Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG), links the Port of Walvis Bay to the southern region of Angola via Tsumeb and Ondangwa to the Oshikango (in Namibia) and the Santa Clara border post in Angola. The Trans Cunene Corridor is perfectly positioned to service the two-way trade between Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Far East.

Location	Distance from Walvis Bay	Transit time
Windhoek, Namibia	384 km	1 day
Tsumeb, Namibia	575 km	1 day
Lubango, Angola	1,551 km	4 days

Border Posts and Operating Hours for Oshikango and Santa Clara:

Border Posts	Operating Hours
Oshikango (Namibia) / Santa Clara (Angola)	*08:00 - 18:00

\*Please note that Namibia operates on daylight savings time during the winter months.

Summer months GMT +2

Winter months GMT +1

Truckers are advised to arrive at the border post by 16h00 to ensure timely clearance.

The Walvis Bay Corridor Group was established to promote and develop business for the Walvis Bay Corridors and Ports. It acts as a service and facilitation centre to coordinate international trade with SADC countries through the Port of Walvis Bay. The Corridors are an integrated approach that accommodates all modes of transport from the Port of Walvis Bay along well-maintained systems of rail networks and tarred roads.



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Agnetha Mouton

Email: [agnetha@wbcg.com.na](mailto:agnetha@wbcg.com.na)

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