

DRC GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY GED AFRICA - KEYNOTE

2 October 2023

Your Excellencies, Honourable Presidents Felix Antoine Tshisekedi and Hakainde Hichilema, Prime Minister Lukonde, Distinguished Ministers, Governor of the province of Haut Katanga, Community Leaders, Esteemed Guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen.

With all protocols observed, I am deeply honoured and privileged to stand before you today to address this esteemed gathering.

Your presence at this event highlights the importance it holds. It is with the utmost respect and humility that I share my thoughts on the Kasomeno-Mwenda Toll Road Project

Today marks a moment of immense pride for GED Africa, our project sponsor Duna Aszfalt, our shareholders, and all our dedicated colleagues.

I would like to pause here to thank in particular our colleagues who are working on the project and those colleagues who have worked on this project in the past, far longer before I joined, and who have been key to its success.

We are truly honoured to witness this historic occasion graced by your esteemed presence.

The Kasomeno-Mwenda Toll Road Project stands as a remarkable cross-border infrastructure project, uniting two 25-year concession agreements.

This ambitious undertaking, includes the construction of a cable-stayed bridge, is set to significantly reduce the journey to Dar es Salam.

The introduction of Congo's first one-stop border post, and the new route offers a new corridor to the East which will unlock regional potential and foster economic prosperity for all stakeholders.

The Project will implement world-class engineering expertise, tolling technology and modern infrastructure.

We are focused on creating a positive and safe user experience and are committed to processing time at the border being about 30 minutes.

The development of the project will undoubtedly unlock trade efficiencies and usher in opportunities for the entire region.

We firmly believe it will foster substantial socioeconomic growth in the Luapula Province and Haut Katanga Province.



We humbly thank both the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Government of the Republic of Zambia for their continued support. Honourable presidents.

This Project symbolises not only a testament to your strong sovereign friendship but, is also a significant milestone towards your shared prosperity.

We further thank our government project partners, firstly the Ministry of Infrastructure in each country – Honourable Muvuni and Honourable Milupi.

Secondly, we thank ACGT led by Mr. Nzau Nzau and the RDA led by Engineer Mutembo. Your and your teams ongoing engagement and support has paved the way for this 25-year relationship – which is more than a partnership, it's a friendship.

We are delighted to note that the governments have finalised the one stop border post agreement which will be signed shortly.

We thank the various communities and their leaders for being welcoming and we pledge our commitment to ensuring that you travel with us on this journey.

We are proud to have in place a multimillion-dollar sustainable impact fund to be distributed across various health care, education, and social infrastructure initiatives in the Projects' host communities over the next 25 years.

We look forward to learning from you and growing together. We wish this project to be a lighthouse initiative that creates for the communities, meaningful jobs, local trade, and skills transfer.

The communities in the project area will become connected and can equally participate in the economic growth of both countries.

We thank the community of Chalwe for proudly preparing the corner stone for this important event.

GED Africa and Duna Aszfalt pledge their unwavering dedication, to ensure the success of this groundbreaking initiative on the African continent. We hope that this project spearheads other infrastructure projects in these proud countries.

For us, this endeavour is not merely about infrastructure; it is about forging connections between communities and countries. It represents a pathway to progress that holds the promise of a brighter future for all.

I thank you.

TWA TO TELA MUKWAI.