

African Road Maintenance Funds Association
(ARMFA)

Association des Fonds d'Entretien Routier Africains
(AFERA)

General Assembly
22-23 April 2004

LOME, TOGO

SPEECH BY THE MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT,
MINES, POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION OF
TOGO

Honourable Ministers
Honourable Member of Parliament
Invited guests
Ladies and gentlemen

The holding of this extraordinary general assembly of the African Roads Maintenance Funds Association ARMFA is an initiative of immense pleasure to the Togolese authorities for your determination to strive for development within the context of exchanges and consultations

For some years now, almost all the countries of our continent have been making commitment in their development programmes, taking economic and social measures that place poverty alleviation at the very centre of their concerns

This special initiative that our states are implementing with the support of the different development partners has a very peculiar dimension in each of our sectors of activity

Furthermore, we should also be aware that whether it concerns increasing the revenue of the populations or the improvement of their accessibility to basic service, the

issue of the conditions of the communications networks above all, takes the centre stage of the facilitating factors. And it is on this note that we would like to say in our country, that *“the road to development is through the development of road”*.

The issue of the sustainability of the financial resources required for the maintenance for our different road networks has received, at varying degrees, proven recommendations from donors, especially the World Bank through one of the components of the Sub Saharan Africa Transport Policy programme (SSATP) called road management initiative (RMI).

Through the RMI, most of our countries have set up second generation road maintenance funds. The conditions for the success of this operation are far from being mobilised and it is the more reason why we should organise ourselves and consult among ourselves in order to forge ahead more confidently.

The results of this second generation road maintenance funds prove their usefulness to us every day. They are the guarantee for the mobilisation of sufficient and lasting resources for road maintenance. You yourselves are the witnesses and privileged stakeholders of this fact.

The holding of your general assembly avails me the opportunity to employ to be more pragmatic and realistic in the different decisions you would be taking. I am however honoured to respectfully draw your attention to the following essential points:

1. the reaffirmation of the objectives of your association bearing in mind consultation and exchange of points of view;
2. the need to make your organisation more flexible and simple, especially with respect to its functioning, and when need be, the renewal of your leadership; and
3. the clear definition of a programme of activities compatible with your specific missions and diversities and which would surely enjoy the support of your traditional development partners who have never let you down.

Many other aspects would be analysed through your fortitude and I have no doubt that you would end up building an organisation worthy of the expectations of our states.

To end, I would like to reiterate the importance that the Head of the State of Togo His Excellency General Gnassingbe Eyadema and his Government attach to your deliberations.

Wishing your deliberations full success, I declare this extraordinary session of the ARMFA general assembly open.

Thank you.