



**MINISTRY
TRANSPORT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

Statement on the visit to the Lebombo Port of Entry by the Minister of Transport, Ms Barbara Creecy (MP) at Lebombo Border, 07 April 2026.

Members of the media

We are visiting the Ressano Garcia/ Lebombo Port of Entry today as part of our ongoing efforts to find a lasting solution to the congestion challenges that have contributed to the delays in the movement of freight across the border into Mozambique.

Our two countries have been invested in attempts to find lasting solutions that will ensure a free flow of movement across our respective borders.

Four months ago, in December 2025, my counterpart Minister Matlombe and I visited this Port and visited the Kilometre 4 freight processing centre in Mozambique as well as the Kilometre 7 site being prepared to process freight on the South African side. We were appraised by the officials on both sides of our borders about the investments being made and some of the processes being implemented to decongest the port.

As promised in December, today we are visiting the Port again to assess progress on the work being done by the various Agencies. Since our visit in December,

- A dry run was conducted between the Immigration of the two countries. They all co-located at kilometre 7 and processed traffic from one spot. This was mainly by the BMA officials and the Immigration officials from Mozambique. This proved that co-location is assisting in moving traffic faster.
- Post the dry run, the co-location continued within the Port of Entry and that has been ongoing. Officials from Mozambique are co-locating within the port on the South African side

These interventions have assisted in moving the traffic faster, thus reducing the pressure on the N4, but a more permanent and stable operation is required

- TRAC has assisted in upgrading the Kilometre 7 processing centre, in which all the cargo vehicles on the South African side will be processed. This is where all the key Agencies will co-locate, that is the BMA, SARS, C-BRTA and the other law enforcement authorities.
- TRAC has also installed cameras from Kilometre 7 to the Port of Entry to monitor movements between Kilometre 7 and the Port of Entry.
- SARS has also agreed to co-locate at Kilometre 7 and has also commenced with the installation processes of their equipment at Kilometre 7 including cameras, and other systems necessary for Customs. The installation will be completed over the next few months.

- SARS has also installed some of the systems that will enable the BMA to operate from Kilometre 7.
- The BMA is also addressing some of the OHS issues that were raised by the BMA employees.
- The BMA has also informed us that their system is ready for implementation at kilometre 7 but this requires the co-location with SARS.

Finally, a detailed processing plan at Kilometre 7 and the Port of Entry has been agreed to by all the key stakeholders, SARS, C-BRTA, BMA , with the assistance of the Security cluster. There are different stages envisaged for processing, and this involves all the stakeholders relevant to border management.

The facility will also assist to prioritise those that have been pre-cleared, particularly by SARS to proceed to the Port without delays. Inspections will also be carried out if needs be and there will be space created for that. SARS has given us an assurance that the installation of their systems will take a few months and by the time we get to the December peak period, all their systems will be in place at Kilometre 7. All the necessary gantries and cameras will be in place and TRAC will assist with labelling the runway into different lanes marked for specific cargo.

With the implementation of these measures and systems, a one-stop border concept will be activated and it is anticipated that the processing of freight across the borders will be faster, thus alleviating the pressure on the N4.

Work will also commence on the scoping of the different border modernisation business processes which will be done in collaboration with different Agencies, so that ultimately a single window platform is established.

A single window is a platform that will enable traders to engage with all applicable government agencies or departments at once and with fewer or without duplications.

These efforts will be in vain if our systems are not coordinated and aligned with those of our sister country, Mozambique.

We must work on aligning our systems so that there are no delays suffered by those moving goods, services and people across our respective borders. Whilst we are sorting out all our systems on the South African side and establishing a processing hub at Kilometre 7, we must also encourage the same efforts at Kilometre 4 on the Mozambique side.

All these efforts are part of our governments' attempt to ensure a seamless flow of traffic across this border and promote improved trade flows and better passenger movements. We are now at a solution phase to a problem that has engulfed our two nations for a while and choking movements to the detriment of our economies.

Transporters remain the largest group of people impacted by the border crossings, whether for freight or for passengers. It is therefore vital that from a Transport perspective, we invest as much effort in finding lasting solutions to such challenges and remain invested in the efforts of seamless transportation. It is the Department of Transport, through its C-BRTA that licences cross-border movements and it is incumbent upon the transport fraternity to ensure that transportation processes are made easier.

I thank you.