UNLOCKING BORDER EFFICIENCY

Practical Solutions from Southern Africa's Transport
Corridors Intermodal Africa 2025

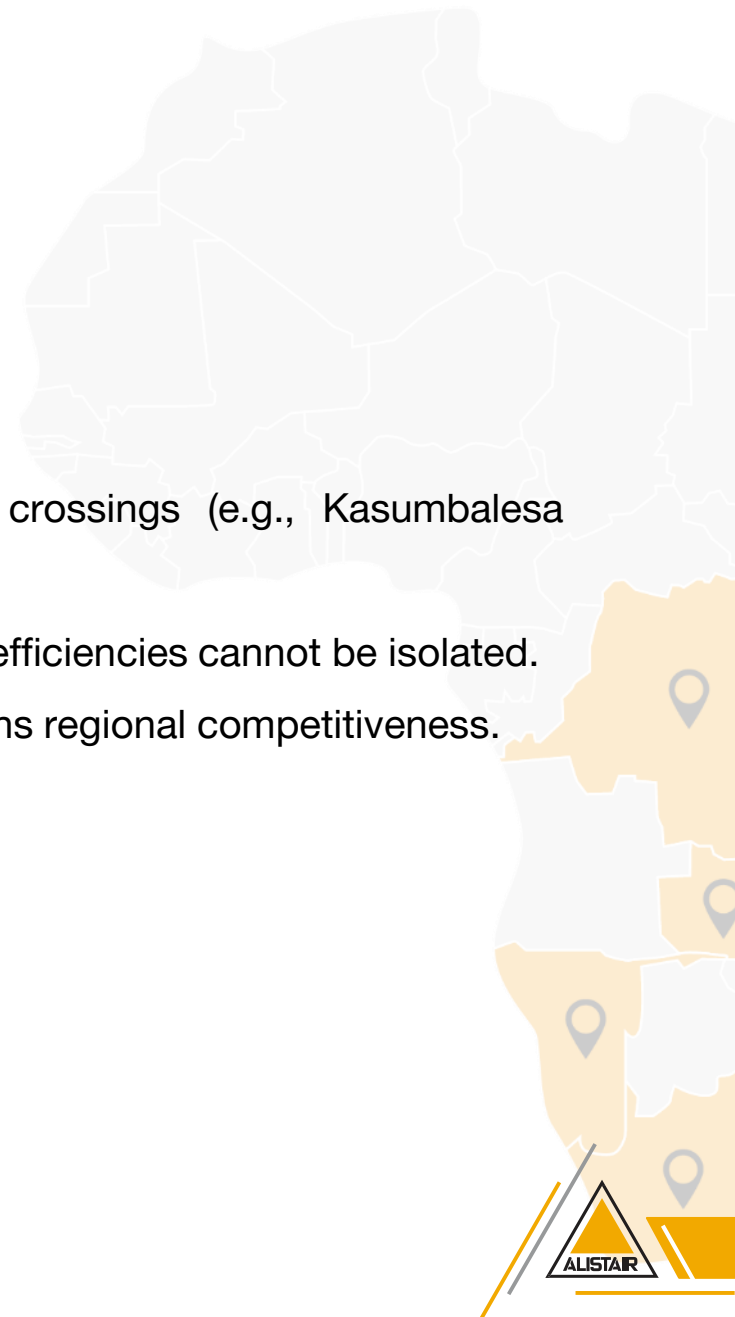JULY 2025

BORDER CONGESTION

The Regional Reality

- Thousands of trucks queue daily at key crossings (e.g., Kasumbalesa 1 000+/day).
- Delays ripple across entire supply chains—inefficiencies cannot be isolated.
- Every hour lost compounds costs and weakens regional competitiveness.

▶ SNAPSHOTS

1

Sakania backlogs can halt flow to Nakonde, Chirundu, Machipanda, Beira & Durban.

2

"Trucks don't trade— countries do, but trucks keep trade alive."

3

Interconnected corridors mean one weak link stalls many markets.

DATA-DRIVEN INTERVENTIONS

▶ Sakania: aligned pre-clearance cuts border time from 18 h → under 3 h

▶ Advance document submission & pre-payment shrink queues and idle time.

▶ Kasumbalesa control rooms reroute traffic in real-time to relieve pressure.

THE REAL COST OF DELAY

01 $300–$500 per truck per day in standing time fees.

02   Fleet-wide: tens of thousands of dollars lost each week.

03   Extra fuel, demurrage & penalties erode margins; governments lose revenue.

THE BIG **THREE** PILLARS

▶ **PILLARS**

1	**2**	**3**
INTEGRATION	**DIGITISATION**	**COLLABORATION**
One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs).	Single Window & data interoperability	Public–Private Partnerships & shared accountability

INTEGRATION

▶ OSBPs streamline mutual inspection & joint clearance.

▶ Chirundu works—road upgrades needed; Kasumbalesa still dual-sided

▶ Infrastructure parity is prerequisite for seamless flow.

DIGITISATION

▶ Mozambique JUE, Zambia ASYCUDA, DRC Sydonia operate in silos.

▶ Adopt WCO 'Globally Networked Customs' for secure pre-arrival processing.

▶ Regional digital backbone delivers exponential efficiency gains.

COLLABORATION

- PPPs enable co-funded infrastructure & traffic forecasting.
- Private sector: real-time data & agile processes.
- Governments: policy alignment & enforcement continuity.

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STAKEHOLDER ACTION CHECKLIST

Governments → Digitise customs → secure consistent power

Customs → Joint cargo management & WCO data model adoption

Private Sector → Digitise docs, give ETA updates, train multi-system staff

SADC/COMESA → Fund Single Window interoperability pilots

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POWER & INFRASTRUCTURE MATTER

A Border IT systems fail without reliable electricity.

C Hybrid/renewable backup keeps clearance running during outages.

D Invest in resilient energy to protect digital gains

Key Takeaways

➔ *Treat corridors as shared networks.*
➔ *Push customs system interoperability.*
➔ *Collaborate intentionally—no stakeholder can fix this alone.*
➔ *"When one border becomes efficient, entire corridors win."*

THANK YOU

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