

The time to write the future is near

After having written and documented the past through “The Struggle for a Better Future”, it is now time to start writing the future.

Some time back now, I authorized the publishing of a press release that related to our plan to travel through Africa. Having had several obstacles put in my way planning had to stop but my desire and ambition to realize this venture next year is greater than ever.

I recently was invited for dinner to my Nigerian brother and we started speaking about this “road trip” across Africa. He asked me what I wanted to get out of traveling across 17 countries over a course of 60+ days by car.

I must admit, the answer is not a straight forward one and before I document the answer to this question immediately, maybe I should just take a step back and talk about what in fact I would want to be doing along this trip.

Over a timeframe of approximately 6-8 months, with a team I would like to develop and build a 1:5 scale prototype of the TU 523, how it is displayed in the animation.

We would set off heading for Spain from our base in London using a 4X4 vehicle towing the prototype in its trailer and between London and our final destination Cape Town, South Africa we have selected several cities and Universities in it, where we would like to not only present the capabilities of our prototype.

I would like to engage with the students of these Universities and I most of all want to know about their ambitions. At the same time, I am very curious to find out at first hand what the reality in terms of job opportunities look like in their country.

My focus should not only be on the cities though, as I am also extremely excited to see how villages further away from any means of transportation to the major schools look like.

It is my ambition to overcome any of these boundaries that the young generation might be facing and overcome the challenges that burdens these countries through the lack of their infrastructure.

I only have an interest in these countries ability to grow exponentially without the need for new and expensive infrastructure and this would bring me to the point where I would like to declare the reason I want to do this journey.

We as society have become so used to traveling between countries and even continents by plane. Especially in the Western World none of the

infrastructure boundaries delay your journey to the airport. However, the congested roads full of cars and trucks might.

If we take the “short” journey to the airport out of the equation though, once the aircraft is in the air, we don’t even think to consider what the journey between London and Cape Town would be like.

Exactly that, I would like to find out. I believe that no money in the world can build the roads to their required capacity quick enough.

The global benchmark for road infrastructure efficiency is for 100% of the rural population to live within two kilometers of an all-season road. To take Cote D’Ivoire as an example this would require them to build 400,000 kilometers of road.

According to European standards you would have to assume approximately US\$1.1 million per km per lane, which does not even cover the annual maintenance cost of these roads.

This is why my motivation to move our technology forward and work with everyone who has the same interest to us, which is to enable Africa to shine through pioneering this technology that doesn’t only relief their transportation burden but create opportunities for the young generation beyond belief.

So, as much as I need to engage into discussions with Governments and privately owned Companies to ensure they are able to implement the technology, it is equally important that these country’s population, people, with dreams, ambition and vision also stand behind this initiative for change.

This is why it is important for me to engage with the Universities its students and everyone else, so that they can see that fresh opportunities are coming towards them and so far, I am extremely happy with all the comments and interactions I have had with people from Africa who clearly understand what this is all about.