

Department waiting for sinkhole report

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THE department of roads and public works said it is still awaiting for a report from geologists regarding a sinkhole on the R31.

Spokesperson Crystal Robertson said department officials were appealing to community members not to enter the barricaded area and that motorists should at all times avoid using the road.

Earlier this month, communities and motorists were shocked by the rapid sinkhole that occurred during heavy rainfall in the Kuruman area.

Robertson said as far as the department was concerned the road was closed and until it received the report, motorists must avoid the road.

“We have closed the road completely and urge the communities not to use the road at all for their safety,” Robertson said.

She said the road would remain closed and the report would be made public once received.

“The road must remain closed and communities are asked to use alternative routes until the road is cleared.”

Chief director engineer of roads and public works, Itumeleng Bulane, said the department will be working with relevant stakeholders to address the problem.

Recently, residents of Tshwane and Klerskorp experienced similar incidents and roads had to be closed.

Experts said these incidents occur in dolomitic areas and communities need to be evacuated because houses might fall into the sinkholes.

Abandoned mines were singled out as a cause of sinkholes.

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