

Bypass at NC sinkhole open

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A TEMPORARY gravel bypass road has been opened at the massive sinkhole just outside Danielskuil.

The Department of Roads and Public Works announced recently that the bypass route had been opened and would be operational for an estimated eight months.

Speaking at a recent press conference, the MEC for Public Works, Mxolisi Sokatsha, said that the closure of the road between Danielskuil and Kuruman had been essential to ensure that there were no fatalities or injuries.

"We would like to acknowledge the cooperation of all our road users in making use of the detour road via Postmasburg," said Sokatsha. He added, however, that the contractor, appointed by the department, had completed the temporary gravel bypass road which is

approximately one kilometre long.

The bypass road to divert traffic around the affected area was opened on Friday.

"The findings of the geologist report included the identification of a safe temporary bypass route and further stipulated the work required to rehabilitate the sinkhole. Road users will be able to use the bypass while the rehabilitation of the sinkhole continues. It is anticipated that the bypass will be operational for an eight-month construction period. We believe that the temporary bypass road will be an economic relief for especially small businesses, reducing their travelling time, taking into account the increasing fuel price."

The sinkhole formed in January after heavy rains in the area. It occurred between Kuruman and Danielskuil in the vicinity of Boesmansgat and is believed to be the sixth deepest sinkhole in the world.