

Daily Sun, Page 10, 29 November 2017

Villagers stranded as river floods



Rain destroyed the footbridge connecting Leratong and KwaMhlanga villages.

Photo by Bongani Mthimunye

BRIDGE COLLAPSE!

By BONGANI MTHIMUNYE
HEAVY rain has caused a footbridge to collapse, leaving school children and residents with no way of crossing the river.

The bridge that connects Leratong and KwaMhlanga villages in Mpumalanga was built in 2014.

Resident Dumisani Sindane (48) said: "We were happy when the bridge was built as it made life easier for us.

"This is a natural disas-

ter and no one is to blame, but it will affect the community badly.

"Our children will not be able to go to school when the river is full," said Dumisani.

Nomsa Mahlangu (33) said the collapse of the bridge would hit her pocket as she would have to give her child taxi fare.

"I am unemployed and my child will have to use a taxi to get to school.

"I can't allow her to cross

the river because it's not safe.

"It will take a long time for the government to fix the bridge.

"Life will be difficult for us when it rains," said Nomsa.

Spokesman for the Mpumalanga Public Works Department, David Nkambule, said a team of professionals was sent to fix the retaining structure of the bridge as a temporary solution.