



The sinkhole in Stephanus Schoeman Road, which has blocked Valhalla residents from reaching the R55, has yet to be repaired. Shereen Tayob (right), Farida Cassim (left), Ridhuan Cassim (middle) highlighted their frustrations.

# Sinkhole angers residents

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## Bennitt Bartl

The issues surrounding a sinkhole, which has resulted in the complete closure of a Centurion road, continue to be a headache for residents in the area.

Stephanus Schoeman Road towards the R55 was closed in March last year, after several sinkholes formed as a result of heavy rainfall.

The road was mainly used as a thoroughfare to Laudium.

A local told *Rekord* again this week that despite previous reports that action would be taken, it seemed nothing was being done to rectify the situation.

"The sinkhole and the road closure continue to be a problem for us as residents," said local business owner Shereen Tayob.

"We continue to be forced to make use of alternate routes to Laudium which are time-consuming, and some of them are in a state.

"One road in particular, nearby Voortrekker Road, is riddled with potholes. You literally drive like you are avoiding land mines when using the road."

Another resident, Sameera Khan, said it appeared some were using the closed road to dump their garbage.

Khan, whose son goes to school in Erasmia, said a trip which would have been around 10 minutes in the past, now took anything from 40 minutes to an hour.

"It is really frustrating for us as residents," she said.

"At weekends, when we want to go buy our Halaal groceries in Laudium, it means we have to make multiple trips and it takes so much more time."

The Department of Public Works and Infrastructure previously said it was trying to find out who the road belonged to.

"Repairing the sinkhole is a process and we need to know who owns the road before work can begin," department spokesperson Thami Mchunu said previously.

"The department's dolomite unit, in conjunction with Tshwane metro, took the initiative to thoroughly investigate the causes of sinkholes.

"The road had to be completely closed as there is more than one sinkhole."

Mchunu said the department was bringing stakeholders together to discuss the way forward.

"The department cannot work alone because this work requires both funding and a safe long-term sustainable solution."