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**Author:** Rosa Karoo Loewe



**SHORT TERM SOLUTION:** Kayser's Beach community members have filled potholes with sabunga construction soil as a temporary solution to the pothole ridden road.

Pictures:  
RANDELL  
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# Potholes? Big fix is in full swing

**BCM's repair drive is well under way but many embattled motorists continue doing their own repairs**

**ROSA-KAROO LOEWE**

A large-scale campaign to fix Buffalo City Metro's many potholes is under way, with roads in more than 10 suburbs already patched up, but some desperate residents continue to do their own repairs.

More than 200 Kayser's Beach residents have joined the WhatsApp group "Sunshine Coast Road Rage" to address the horrendous state of their road, the only access road to Kayser's Beach, Christmas Rock, Cosy Corner and surrounding farmland from the R72 road.

BCM spokesperson Samkelo Ngwenya said the metro had budgeted R83m for the rehabilitation of surfaced roads and R43m for the re-gravelling of rural roads but that the R57 was under provincial jurisdiction through the public works department.

"But this does not mean that we completely neglect such roads," Ngwenya said.

"BCM has an in-house internal team for pothole repairs using our own plant, including mixers and rollers, for repairs.

"To supplement its stretched internal resources, BCM also appointed three external service providers who will be dealing with the main routes in East London, Mdantsane and Qonce."

Ngwenya said engineers and superintendents had been driving around the city inspecting and marking potholes to begin repairing the most severe ones but also relied on feedback from communities to identify potholes.

"The metro is hard at work starting with the main and busy routes like Oxford Street,



**HARD AT WORK:** Buffalo City Metro spokesperson Samkelo Ngwenya seen with a group of metro employees and contracted service providers hard at work fixing stubborn potholes in a number of metro roads on Friday. Picture: ASANDA NINI

the North East Expressway, Bonza Bay Road, Western Avenue, Esplanade, and St George's Road."

Pieter van Schalkwyk of the Kayser's Beach Action group and Community Forum, said 252 residents had joined the Road Rage group, which would host a community meeting on the issue at the Christmas Rock Community Hall.

"We have 82 people confirmed who will attend the meeting.

"We've been maintaining this road since 2017 with local and community funding — we have had no support from BCM or the

provincial government as this is a provincial road, but they pass the problem between them."

Van Schalkwyk said the forum used local labourers to maintain the road.

"We can't redo the roads, we can only fix potholes, because the quality of the road when it was first tarred did not comply with the standards of the road.

"There is not sufficient stormwater drainage or tarmac support — that's why the potholes form."

"Hundreds of residents use the road from Cosy Corner, Christmas Rock, Seavale and

Kayser's Beach. In the past, we've bought 60 tonnes of wrapped tar and paid R14,000 to transport it from Port Alfred and we reached the point where we had no potholes, nobody complained, there was no screaming and shouting — but then the funding dried up."

The forum had approached the department of transport for assistance and proposed a joint agreement between the private sector and the government but had yet to receive a response.

"We want to sign an agreement and work together to solve the problem but this was not signed and never happened.

"In the meantime, people are furious. You can't drive faster than 15km an hour [on the road].

"Emergency services and the police refuse to come out because of the road."

Other communities have also taken to fixing their own streets.

Gonubie Ratepayers Association chair Henri Smit said Gonubie residents were anonymously filling potholes in the area to reduce damage to their vehicles.

"People are very frustrated. We are having a community meeting on Tuesday with a legal representative to speak on how we can address the problem and create a guided response.

"BCM has filled holes in Gonubie but this won't last long and now they've depleted the budget, and these roads need to be redone. They must use our money correctly."

Ginger Love co-founder Simone Klaasen said she had recently witnessed five people filling in large potholes in Chadwick Street, Buffalo Flats.

"I was on my walk about a month ago and saw some guys filling in potholes with sand.

"I stopped and asked them what they were doing. It's great but sadly it won't last long."