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## Bushbuckridge protests yield positive results as contractors are set to be appointed

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**BUSHBUCKRIDGE** - Contractors are to be appointed to upgrade roads in Welverdiend and Justicia after the communities protested demanding better roads, disrupting tourism in the process.

The provincial spokesperson for the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Bongani Dhamini, said they had various engagements with community

representatives regarding the construction of roads in Welverdiend and Justicia (Xhimungwe) Belfast to the R536. These are major commuter roads of Mkhuhlu and Hazyview.

"It must be noted that Bushbuckridge Local Municipality [BLM] has benefited more from road construction projects in the past five years than any other municipality in the province. Also, in the same municipality, the department has widened the Rolle and

Kumane bridges and upgraded the latter's gravel road," Dhamini said.

He said the procurement process is at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that it would be concluded in the next few days, after which contractors will be introduced by the BLM mayor, Sylvia Nxumalo. "While the department understands community frustrations relating to roads, the ongoing disruption of schools in Welverdiend is strongly condemned, since community

leaders were informed about the status of the procurement process. MEC Mohita Latchumirai called upon community members to co-operate and work with the department. She further said that law enforcement agencies must deal with those who are disrupting schools and other services in the community. In the interim, the department will be blading and gravelling the Justicia road to ensure it is in a decent condition, just as in Welverdiend."