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Five years later and road still a muddy mess

Michelle Boshoff

LYDENBURG - “The road leading to Estralita School would be fixed in the blink of an eye.”

This was the promise that was made by the Mpumalanga MEC for public works, roads and transport, Mandla Ndlovu, in 2018.

It is five years later and nothing has been done about the dangerous road.

After heavy rain on Saturday, and a history of neglect, residents of Barco apartments next to the school had to call in for assistance to get their vehicles out of the



Vehicles were stuck in the mud on Saturday.

muddy mess.

This was the same scenario as in February 2021 when Estralita employees had to be towed out of the mud after heavy rains.

At the time, DA member of parliament, Sonja Boshoff, wrote to Steelburger/Lydenburg News about the ‘mind-boggling’ way roads were fixed in Lydenburg.

“Getting to Estralita is problematic as the original road over the bridge is completely non-existent and the one that they are now using is one big mud pool - an absolute disgrace. Thaba Chweu Local Municipality should be ashamed of its lack of maintenance of all the roads in town. The Lydenburg business sector and hospitality industry are losing income as many people have opted to use alternate routes to the various tourist attractions found in Mpumalanga. I am fully aware that the recent rain has caused more potholes, but had this municipality attended to the road surfaces prior to the rain, we as residents would not have to put our lives at risk.

“What is of concern is that the municipality has the workforce and money to paint white lines on the road in front of the doctor’s consulting rooms, which in my mind is so unnecessary as any road user worth his or her salt can drive without lines, and this money could have been utilised for the fixing of potholes and clearing of storm-water drains, to ensure that water does not accumulate on road surfaces, leading to more road surface damages. Putting sand and a thin layer of tar in a hole is not going to fix it,” Boshoff said.

Themba Sibiyi, media and marketing manager for the municipality, said all the roads in town are a priority and part of the budget for 2023/24 will be allocated towards repairing the said road.

