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Deadly potholes a headache for motorists!

By **THEMBI SIAGA**

THE deadly pothole D4 road, which connects N1 to Elim and runs through Malamulele to Vuwani in Limpopo, is undergoing rehabilitation.

Limpopo MEC for Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, Nkakareng Rakgoale, conducted oversight visits on two road projects on Monday, 11 September.

It's alleged that these two roads were blamed for causing accidents and endangering the lives of motorists and pedestrians.

The visit was part of preparations for this week's National Council of Provinces (NCOP) visit to Limpopo.

Rakgoale was joined by the Collins Chabane Mayor Shadrack Maluleke and councillors from Makhado Municipality and Vhembe District to monitor the progress on the road.

The busy D4 road is about 100 kilometres.

Commuter Niculus Banda told *Daily Sun* that it takes more hours to travel on the road due to many potholes.

"It's risky to use the road, and it consumes time, which makes us arrive late at our destinations," he said.

Abie Khosa, a member of the Elim Taxi Association, said there has been no noticeable improvement in the repair and restoration of the road after the project started on 16 January 2023.

"It puts pressure on us because the dangerous potholes are imposing significant financial burdens on us, because we are compelled to frequently replace tyres, shocks, and ball joints, to mention a few.

"The potholes force us to drive on the gravel sideway of the road rather

than endure the pothole tar road," he said.

According to Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure spokesman Witness Tiva, the section from Malamulele to Elim, contractor Puttie Trading Enterprise was awarded R20 million.

"The project is expected to be completed by 30 November 2023. Elim to N1, contractor Machabatau Construction was also awarded 20 million, and it started on 23 July 2023, with an expected finish date of 20 December 2023," Tiva said.

MEC Rakgoale said: "I am satisfied with the progress that is being made on the maintenance and rehabilitation of the two roads. The department remains committed to ongoing efforts to ensure that the province's roads become safe and suitable for driving."



Members of Limpopo Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure during an oversight visit on rehabilitation of the D4 road, which connects N1 to Elim and runs through Malamulele to Vuwani.