



Publication: Highvelder - Main
Title: Municipality responds to deteriorating state of Ermelo roads
Publish date: 17 Feb 2023
Page: 3

Reach: 17985
AVE:R 10261.90
Author: Rene Joubert



The road conditions in Ermelo are deteriorating by the day.

Municipality responds to deteriorating state of Ermelo roads

René Joubert

ERMELO - After Highvelder recently reported about the dire state of the town's roads, Msukaligwa Local Municipality said a programme was launched to assist it to repair the roads with a Jetpatcher machine.

Mandla Zwane, the municipality's spokesperson, told the paper that Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM) would assist Msukaligwa with the machine for the whole of March.

"The in-house team will also continue to repair potholes when materials are available," Zwane said.

He said they do not have enough funds to carry out the required maintenance on the 212km stretch. "If the roads were properly resealed before receiving the last rainfall, the condition would not be like this, since some of the potholes developed due to water that penetrated the existing cracks, and that made the situation to be worse."

Zwane said the remaining budget for the financial year 2022/23 is insufficient to restore the condition of all the roads, but that they would prioritise the areas that are not driveable.

Entities like the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, GSDM and Msobo Coal have also contributed some of the materials to repair some of these streets.

The allocated budget for 2022/23 was R2.8m, and a portion of it has already been used for buying materials for patching and resurfacing the roads.

"The situation is not good. However, the institution has repaired some of the streets in the meantime with cold mix asphalt and some with gravel, just to ensure that road users are able to reach their destinations," Zwane concluded.

Highvelder sent further media enquiries to find out on which streets the budget had been spent and what was left of it, and awaits further response.