



Publication: Lowvelder (Laevelder) - Main
Title: Process to repair damaged roads progressing
Publish date: 19 Oct 2023
Page: 6

Reach: 36966
AVE: R 28199.19
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The R536 between Sabie and Hazyview.

Process to repair damaged roads progressing

Tumelo Waga Dibakwane

MBOMBELA - The provincial government is still in the process of securing service providers to repair the roads damaged by floods earlier this year.

The provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT) is responsible for repairing the R536 between Sabie and Hazyview, which has been closed for more than six months. Sanral is responsible for the R40 repairs next to the Klipkopjes Dam.

The DPWRT's spokesperson, Bongani Dlamini, said a tender to repair the R536 is expected to be awarded during this month, and

construction will be carried out from January to March 2024. He added that temporary repairs had been undertaken on the Josefsdal Border Post road, which is part of the Barberton Makhonjwa Geotrail, by the provincial internal road maintenance team.

Sanral's Northern Regional project manager, Alan Agaienz, said it will be issuing a tender for repairs to the R40, the damaged section next to the popular Klipkopjes Dam. Their structural consulting engineers have completed documentation for the tender. "For now, no service providers have been appointed, as it was anticipated that we would award the tender in September.

However, there was a two-week delay with advertising of the tenders, but it is now out in the market.

"There will be an evaluation process, and only thereafter can we decide on the most deserving contractor," he said. Sanral cannot reveal the estimated cost of the project until the tender process and contractor selection had been completed. It is anticipated that the contract duration would be about 12 months. "This is a fairly difficult project. I cannot reveal what we believe the estimated cost of the project will be until the tender process has been completed," Agaienz said.