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Author: Moleboheng Chaha



Mayor Siphso Radebe led the sod-turning of the project to restore a notorious road in Evaton. Photo: Moleboheng Chaha



ELM has launched a R16m road project in Evaton. Photo: Moleboheng Chaha



To highlight their frustration, residents swam in a giant pothole in the road.

ELM launches R16m project in Evaton

Moleboheng Chaha

EVATON - Following years of complaints from residents regarding the notorious 'swimming pool road' in Evaton West Extension 5 and 7, the Emfuleni Local Municipality has launched a R16m project which will see a brand new road for the community.

A sod-turning event was carried out on November 18, led by ELM mayor Siphso Radebe. Radebe was accompanied by MMC for Public Works Tumi Mochawe, MMC for Public Safety Ndade Mokoena, Ward 26 councillor Isaac Lekhema, and South African Road Agency Limited (SANRAL)

representatives. The six-month-long project has been welcomed by the community, who said they have been struggling with transport in the area due to the poor state of the road. To highlight their frustration, residents previously held a pool party at one of the gigantic potholes in the area.

According to ELM, the reconstruction forms part of the municipality's ongoing attempts to improve the quality of road infrastructure in Emfuleni.

"The purpose-built road has been budgeted for R16m and will cover 1.2 kilometres. The road will feature a sidewalk and a stormwater drainage system to prevent pooling."

"Contractors have started with preliminary

works to ensure the construction process is rolled out seamlessly."

ELM said the project is scheduled to commence this month and is expected to be completed in March 2025 provided all goes as planned. Lekhema said he is happy that the plight of the community has been heard.

"We are overjoyed that a road project we've been longing for has finally come to our area. The reconstruction of the road is highly welcomed as the community will no longer struggle to go to work and school during rainy seasons." Radebe indicated that the municipality is aware of the challenges Evaton West Extension 5 and 7 communities have been facing for some time because of the state

of the road.

"Since December 2021, our communities have been complaining about this street, now popularly known as the swimming pool road. Because of budget challenges, the municipality could not help as and when expected. After several site visits and observing how this community struggled during rainy seasons, we approached different government spheres for help, and we are thankful that SANRAL has come on board."

Radebe called on the affected Evaton West community to support the project to aid its scheduled completion.

ELM said safety controls will be in place during construction.