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Residents hope that RAL will finally fix roads

BY BERNARD CHIGUVARE

The Road Agency Limpopo (RAL) plans to upgrade several roads in the Collins Chabane district, including the D3645, D3660, D3647, D3668, and D3650 roads. These roads are in such poor condition that motorists struggle to access them.

In 2022, *Limpopo Mirror* reported on Collins Chabane residents who marched for better roads. The communities of Mchipsi, Gijamandizi, Govhu, Dinga, Green Farm, Shigalo, Ka-Mavundani, Nyavani, and Xaswita pleaded with the Limpopo Department of Public Works to tar these roads. Residents claimed to have raised the issue of the poor state of the roads with the municipality many times, but no action was taken. Learners, commuters, and local taxis faced difficulties accessing these roads. The matter gained at-

attention when Mr Simon Sithole, a community activist from the Road Crisis Development Forum and the Madonsi Tribal Authority, brought it up with RAL in September of last year.

RAL conducted inspections and found that the roads were primarily water-damaged. They proposed temporary measures, including regular road and channel maintenance through grading, filling eroded areas with selected material, and creating earth channels alongside the road. A permanent solution to address the issue in these villages is to upgrade them to a blacktop surface with an efficient drainage system. However, RAL mentioned that this could take time because of financial constraints.

Sithole informed *Limpopo Mirror* that residents from the

concerned villages were pleased with the developments. However, he noted that the RAL documents presented to the forum did not specify any budget or time frame. "The forum has called a meeting with them, scheduled for Friday, 26 January, to deliberate on the concerns," he said.



Erosion along the shoulder of the D3668 makes the road very dangerous to drive on. Photo: Roads Agency Limpopo.