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Resident turns to PP over delays in road upgrades

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A FED-UP resident of Tshimbupfe village, Nthambeleni Mufuniwa Gabara, has asked the Public Protector, Adv Kholeka Gcaleka to investigate the long-standing delays in upgrading gravel roads in his area into tar roads.

Gabara submitted his complaint at the Public Protector's office in Pretoria last Friday, calling for an investigation into the Makhado Municipality, Collins Chabane Municipality, Roads Agency Limpopo (RAL) and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure. He accuses the authorities of failing to deliver on promises to upgrade roads D3778, D3753 and D3718, which connect Malonga, Hanani, Tshimbupfe and Thohoyandou.

According to Gabara, the Makhado Municipality's 2009/10–2010/11 Integrated Development Plan (IDP) listed the roads

more than a year later, there has been no visible progress on the ground.

Departmental spokesperson Emmanuel Mongwe previously said that designs for roads D3778, D3753 and D3718 were completed and that the projects were on the province's priority list - but added that construction had been delayed by budget constraints.

"For over three decades, Tshimbupfe residents have been waiting for a tar road," said Gabara. "We are tired of broken promises. I believe the Public Protector's office will investigate this matter without fear or favour and ensure accountability."



During the rainy season gravel roads become almost impassable. Vehicles skid and slide.

for upgrading from gravel to tar, but only a portion of the route namely Giyani to Nkuri to Malonga (D3634) was completed. "The remaining gravel roads are in a deplorable state. During the rainy season, they become almost impassable. Vehicles skid and slide, making travel dangerous."

He said residents have grown frustrated by repeated assurances from officials that have yielded no progress. "We want the Public Protector to determine whether the road design documents ever existed and what is delaying construction," Gabara said.

In September 2023, RAL announced on its official social media pages that a consultant engineer had been appointed to design the upgrade of the affected roads, with the work expected to be completed within 12 months. But



Nthambeleni Gabara approaches the Public Protector over untarred roads.