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Sanral takes over maintenance of popular tourist routes in Lowveld

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A major boost for tourism routes in the Lowveld can be expected as Sanral takes responsibility for a number of key access roads.

Many of these are dilapidated and lack even basic maintenance by the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport (DPWRT).

According to Sanral's provincial manager, Mabusy Mhlanga, the Hazyview road leading to the R538 and R40 intersection will now be maintained by their organisation.

Other roads that will in the future fall under Sanral's purview include the R533 between Graskop and Bushbuckridge, the roads around Crossing Shopping Centre in Mbombela, the R571 from Komatipoort to the Marloth Park intersection, the R540 from Dullstroom to Mashishing (previously Lydenburg), and the R538 from White River to Hazyview.

"We are also taking over the R40 from White River to Mbombela, as well as the Plaston Road, including the section in Karino that leads to the KMI Airport. Sanral will also now be responsible for

the Barberton Makhonjwa Geotrail Border route to Barberton, and from Low's Creek to Kaapmuiden. We are going to do regular maintenance on some and totally rebuild others," Mhlanga said.

Sanral has already started repairs on some of these roads. Assessments of those needing to be rebuilt are currently being undertaken.

The Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism's (KLCBT) CEO, Linda Grimbeek, welcomed this initiative. "Most of the roads Sanral has adopted are important tourism routes and need regular special attention. I believe Sanral has the capacity and expertise to build and properly maintain quality roads," she said.

Roads in other tourist towns such as White River, Hazyview and Mashising are also receiving much-needed attention. Work on the R540 between Dullstroom and Mashising already started some weeks ago and Easter visitors have been vocal in their support and gratitude for the greatly improved quality of this critical access route.

Grimbeek added that the KLCBT is grateful for the long overdue attention to Mpumalanga's road network. "With Sanral's intervention, we look forward to increased tourist numbers as a result of better roads," she concluded.

