

Publication: Hazyview Herald - Main

Title: R538 potholes to be repaired

Publish date: 14 May 2025

Page: 4

Reach: 10000

AVE: R 13766.35

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The potholes at one of the traffic circles on the R538. *Photo: Tumelo Waga Dibakwane*

R538 potholes to be repaired

Tumelo Waga Dibakwane

The huge potholes at two separate traffic circles on the R538 in Masoyi are to be fixed before the end of May.

According to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport's spokesperson, Bongani Dhlamini, they are waiting for funds to be able to attend to it.

This comes after a communal outcry about the public's personal safety. "The department has appointed a contractor to fix the potholes and do maintenance on the entire road. The delay is due to budget constraints of the past financial year," he said.

However, residents said they do not believe it. They were promised it would be repaired in December last year, but nothing happened. Others say protesters damage the roads when burning tyres during service delivery protests. "The road is not even

10 years old and most of the potholes, including the one on the traffic circle, were caused by burning tyres. People must learn that damaging the infrastructure won't solve their problems but would affect them at a later stage. We are now stuck with huge potholes at traffic circles with criminals waiting for motorists to slow down to rob them," said Sylvester Nyundu, a concerned motorist.

Another resident, Jabu Ndlovu, pleaded with the community to refrain from damaging the road during protests. He also begged provincial government to always prioritise residents' concerns. "Our government waits for the media to raise issues before they attend to them. This matter was reported to them long ago, with no action. Residents should stop burning tyres on the roads when they want municipal services. Now we are left with potholes we cannot fix," he said.