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The so-called yellow fleet was launched in Long Street, Kimberley. PHOTO: Facebook

Sol patching things up

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Aiming at rehabilitating broken road networks and transforming service delivery with in the Sol Plaatje Municipality in Kimberley, the Northern Cape Provincial Government launched an "aggressive dual-intervention initiative".

On Wednesday 24 June, Premier Zamani Saul, alongside Fufe Makatong (MEC for Roads and Public Works); Wende Marekwa (mayor of the Frances Baard District); Thapelo Matlala (city manager); and Martha Bartlett (Sol Plaatje executive mayor) officially spearheaded the rollout of the Operation Vala Zonke project.

With this, a brand-new R98 million "yellow fleet" of heavy road maintenance machinery

was unveiled.

This high-stakes infrastructure blitz comes just ahead of Sol Plaatje approving its R4,2 billion budget for the 2026-'27 financial year.

The programme commenced in Long Street, where the first phase of pothole patching operations were witnessed. Long Street was selected as the launch site due to its strategic economic importance, high traffic volumes and visible deterioration of road infrastructure.

The delegation then proceeded to Galeshewe, where additional pothole patching teams were already repairing roads and restoring critical transport routes.

The event concluded at the Kimberley Taxi Rank, where the government launched a large-scale cleaning and beautification initiative aimed at creating a cleaner, safer and more welcoming urban environment for residents,



City manager Thapelo Matlala and executive mayor Martha Bartlett at the launch of Operation Vala Zonke. PHOTO: Charné Kemp

commuters and visitors.

According to officials, the government's intervention follows growing public concerns regarding deteriorating road conditions, storm-

water damage and maintenance backlogs, with municipal records reflecting more than 650 pothole and road-related service complaints.

Zandisile Luphahla, departmental spokesperson, says the intervention aims to repair approximately 18 500 m² of road surface, improve road safety, enhance mobility, reduce vehicle damage and preserve critical municipal infrastructure.

In addition to road repairs, the programme focuses on grass cutting, bush clearing, storm-water drain cleaning, illegal dumping removal, traffic island maintenance, sidewalk cleaning and general environmental beautification.

While the pothole patching programme is expected to run for three months, the cleaning and beautification campaign will continue as an ongoing initiative.

Speaking at the event, Bartlett noted that the municipality now serves over 277 000 people.