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Author: Tumelo Waga Dibakwane

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HARD NEWS

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The progress of the road.

Thomo inspects progress on R533 section

Tumelo Waga Dibakwane

Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Thulasizwe Thomo has reaffirmed the department's commitment to restoring a collapsed section of the R533.

Thomo visited the site between Graskop and Bushbuckridge last Wednesday to assess the progress of repair work after a road embankment failure and slope slip caused by heavy rainfall damaged a section of the route.

According to Thomo, the purpose of the visit was to evaluate the rehabilitation work currently underway and ensure that the project remains on track to restore the affected road safely and efficiently.

"This oversight visit allowed us to assess the progress made on the rehabilitation works and evaluate the measures being implemented to restore this important section of the road," said Thomo.

He described Road P57/2 (R533) as a vital transport corridor linking the Bushbuckridge and Thaba Chweu local municipalities.

"The route also serves as a key tourism corridor connecting Hazyview, Graskop, Sabie and White River, including the internationally renowned Panorama Route, making its restoration critical for both

residents and the tourism sector.

The department recognises the urgency of completing the rehabilitation project to ensure the safe and reliable movement of commuters, tourists, and goods travelling along the route.

The completion of this project remains a priority because many communities, businesses and visitors depend on this strategic road every day," he said.

Thomo also said the rehabilitation project includes restoring the structural integrity and functionality of the damaged road, strengthening and stabilising the embankment, improving drainage systems and implementing measures to reduce the risk of future slope failures caused by heavy rainfall and adverse weather conditions.

He said the department believes these interventions will improve the long-term resilience of the road and minimise the impact of extreme weather events on the province's transport infrastructure.

Thomo said the department will continue to monitor progress closely to ensure the project is completed to the required standards and that road users can once again travel safely along one of Mpumalanga's most important transport and tourism routes.

The work is expected to be finished by end of August.



Acting Chief Director of Roads Ronnie Masia and MEC Thulasizwe Thomo. **Photos: Supplied/DPWRT**