



## NEWS EDITOR

## MEDIA STATEMENT

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### **MASSIVE INVESTMENT ON COAL HAULAGE ROADS IN MPUMALANGA A BOOST FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Investment on coal haulage roads has had some social and economic spin-offs for the province with massive job creations and improvement on tourism in the province. The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga has invested more than R1,3 billion towards the rehabilitation and maintenance of roads for the 2015/16, with more coal haulage projects underway for the next financial year.

The rehabilitation of Coal Haul Road P30/3 between Tutuka PowerStation and Standerton in the Gert Sibande district is expected to boost business in the mining town, with larger commodities delivering goods in the nearest mines translating into positive impact on economic scale, while running costs for business will be reduced due to better condition of the road. The rehabilitation of the 16 km road project started in January 2015 and is expected to be completed in October 2016 at a tune of more than R164 million. Local people benefited from the project with at least four hundred and seventy (470) work opportunities on the project.

In her budget and policy address, MEC of the Department, Ms Dumisile Nhlengethwa reiterated her commitments towards improving coal haulage road network infrastructure. "Our ultimate goal is to provide a sustainable environment where everyone has reachable and easy access to basic and essential services through road infrastructure. Hence the rehabilitation of D686 from Leeuwfontein past Kendal Power station over R555(5/1) to N12 as well as road P29/1 between Ogies and Kendal" she said.

Meanwhile, the rehabilitation, upgrading and maintenance of P26/4 road from Ermelo to Breyten has commenced and is scheduled to be complete in January 2017. The work commenced in January 2015, at a tune of more than R244 million. The deterioration of the road was attributed to heavy trucks which are collecting coal to Majuba power station. But the partnership between the department, local mines and Eskom is key towards maintaining coal haul road especially on the mining towns.

**ENDS**

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