

## NEWS EDITOR

## MEDIA STATEMENT

25 January 2016

### REPAIRS OF FLOOD DAMAGED ROADS AND BRIDGES IN PROGRESS AT BUSHBUCKRIDGE MUNICIPALITY

Major road maintenance and construction work is progressing well in some parts of Bohlabela District. This comes after the heavy floods washed away building infrastructure including roads and bridges two years ago causing devastation in which locals were disconnected to social amenities such as health facilities, schools and police stations.

The community of Hluvukani, Hlavis, Gotternburg, Rolle are amongst the villagers which were badly affected by floods. Hluvukani village is near Thulamahashe area is amongst the affected areas as the bridge which connects the community to other villagers was washed away. However, that will soon change as the Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is working around the clock to repair damages of the bridge.

The construction of the D4411 bridge between Hluvukani-Hlavekisa is in progress and the construction started in November 2015 and is expected to be completed by the end of January 2016 at a tune of R2 million. The impoverished community of Hluvukani is benefitting immensely as a total of 12 local labourers are working on the project. Ms Eliza Vuma from Hlavekisa is one of the workers on site building the bridge. According to Eliza, life at home has improved for the better as she is able to buy all the basic necessities because of the wage she gets from working in the project. "I have never worked in my life so my kids and I used to survive on a social grant. I have five kids who are getting grants," she explained. The project did not only boost the local economy but brought hope to the local people who had to travel at least 10 km using alternative road to access services. Steven

Mathebula is a learner at Mdhluli High School. He said that the construction of the bridge will make things easier for them as they will travel a shorter distance to go to school. Meanwhile the department is busy re-gravelling roads and building bridges at Bushbuckridge municipality such as D4422 Thulamahashe – MP stream, D3968 Rolle-P17/5, D4415 between Hluvukani-Dixie, D4398 Rolle –Shimati bridge etc.

**For more information, kindly contact Mr David Nkambule on (013) 766-6553 or 071 608 1059.**

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