

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS & INFRASTRUCTURE

MEDIA RELEASE

To: All reporters and editors.

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, 13 November 2024

The Limpopo Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure welcomes the court ruling on the Mavhunga Access Road matter. The High Court has ruled in favour of Roads Agency Limpopo, after a contractor who was terminated due to poor performance challenged the agency's decision to appoint a new contractor to take over the project to ensures that the D3669 project is completed.

The contractor, who had initially been appointed to implement the project, encountered project implementation difficulties and abandoned the site for a period of 10 months. As a result, RAL had no other option but to appoint a new contractor to continue and complete the project.

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest Rachoene, supports the commitment to utilise government resources efficiently and improve the quality of services from the contractors.

The court ruled in favour of RAL, confirming that the contractor could not be allowed to return to site, as the SLA had expired, and the contractor had abandoned the site for an extended period.

Furthermore, the court determined that the matter was not urgent and removed it from the court roll. This confirms that dedicated efforts of the 7th Administration to ensure that roads infrastructure remains a priority in Limpopo province.

> 43 Church Street. Polokwane, 0699, Private Bag X9490, POLOKWANE, 0700 Tel: (015) 284 7000, (015) 284 7030 website: http://www.dpw.limpopo.gov.za

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The contractor's Service Level Agreement (SLA) with RAL expired on 10 May 2024, despite this, the contractor applied for an interdict and spoliation order, a legal remedy to restore possession of the project.

This ruling provides clarity and certainty for RAL and reaffirms the Agency's commitment to delivering critical infrastructure projects for the people of Limpopo. RAL remains focused on ensuring the timely completion of the D3669 Mavhunga Access Road project, and the newly appointed contractor is already on site and making progress.

The Department would like to assure all stakeholders, including the residents of Makhado Municipality and the broader Vhembe District, that the road project will continue uninterrupted. The department and its Agency remain committed to fulfilling its mandate of improving road infrastructure and ensuring that the people of Limpopo benefit from quality, well-maintained roads.

For Enquiries contact:

Mr. Emmanuel Mongwe Media Liaison Officer 0791473519 Or Mr. Danny Legodi RAL Head of Communications 0760187919

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