

PR Councillor: H Vorster



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Member of Budget & Treasury Committee

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DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Att:

Mr. Marshall Von Buchenroder – Shadow MEC for Transport
Ms. Vicky Knoetze – Shadow MEC for Roads & Public Works
Mr. Kobus Botha – EC Midlands Constituency Leader

Re: Potholes – Middelburg EC

Good day

The above subject has reference.

This is to inform you of our current issue in Middelburg with our Provincial Roads.

The R56, especially in Church Street, is very badly damaged. Motorists are driving almost on the pavement to avoid the huge potholes. The slipway from the Station to the N9 is also riddled with potholes; some so big it can swallow bicycles. The bridge is also disintegrating. The Truck Stop is losing business as trucks refuse to drive on that stretch of road.

Numerous letters were written to Ms. Cebokazi Sibiya (Dept Roads & Public Works – Chris Hani Region). I have also phoned her and sent her photos. She promised to assist the local unit. Nothing has come of this.

I did an oversight visit to the Middelburg Unit this morning. The supervisor's vehicle was transferred to another unit, without replacing it. There is no material to fix or maintain any of the provincial roads. The yellow plant is also gathering dust, as the unit has been waiting for diesel for 4 weeks now. The supervisor of the unit also informed me about rumours that the Department wants to close down Middelburg Unit, which will be catastrophic for our region as our town is surrounded by provincial roads.

Residents have given Province 14 days to fix the slipway from Station towards N9; otherwise they will close the road themselves. Residents are also using cement, which is illegal, to fill potholes. This is out of desperation.

I am writing to you as a councillor and resident of Middelburg, to please assist us with this matter. I am inundated with complaints on a weekly basis and am getting absolutely no assistance from the Department.

Your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Cllr Handri Vorster