



**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**GEORGE MICHALAKIS**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
Room 255, Marks Building  
PO Box 15, Houses of Parliament  
CAPE TOWN 8000, SOUTH AFRICA

9 November 2022

Hon. SH Ntombela  
The Premier, Free State Province  
**BLOEMFONTEIN**

CC:  
Hon. KW Bulwane  
HOD: FS Department Police, Roads & Transport  
**BLOEMFONTEIN**

Dear Premier

**R708, WINBURG - THEUNISSEN**

I attach hereto a parliamentary reply as received from the Minister of Transport regarding the R708 between Winburg and Theunissen.

As you know, this road has deteriorated substantially over the past few months and is in a life threatening condition, as so many other roads in the province. This 34km stretch of road also links the N5 from Durban to Winburg with the R30 connecting Bloemfontein and Welkom, which is already being serviced by SANRAL.

You will note that SANRAL has indicated that they stand ready to maintain this road. The only requirement is that you, as Premier, make an official request to the Minister in this regard. Such a move will take additional strain off the provincial government to allocate resources to other provincial roads that are also in dire need of maintenance.

I therefore make the request to you to consider the above and the response by SANRAL favourably. A motion to the same effect was also unanimously adopted by the National Council of Provinces today. Your kind and urgent response in this regard would be appreciated.

Sincere regards,

George Michalakis MP  
National Council of Provinces

## **National Council of Province**

### **Question No 701**

**Mr W A S Aucamp (Northern Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Transport:**

Whether the SA National Road Agency Limited will consider taking responsibility for the life threatening 34,8 km stretch of the R708 road between Winburg and Theunissen in the Free State (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) what procedures to be followed in this regard and (b) which circumstances should be met for such consideration to be given effect?

CW801E

### **REPLY**

The R708 road between Winburg and Theunissen is part of the 2819 km of Strategic and Primary roads in the Free State earmarked to fall under the jurisdiction of SANRAL, but to date has not been transferred to SANRAL.

- a) As per section 40 (1) of the SANRAL Act 7 of 1998 the Minister of Transport may declare any existing road to be a national road, but then only with the agreement of the Premier of the Province in which the road is situated.
- b) As indicated the R708 is already part of the 2819 km of Strategic and Primary roads in the Free State earmarked to fall under SANRAL, the only outstanding requirement is for the Premier of Free State Province to, in writing request the Minister of Transport for these roads (including R708) to be declared as national roads to fall under the jurisdiction of SANRAL. Once declared as national roads, SANRAL will be able to immediately assume maintenance responsibility of these roads.