



North West Parks Board

**North West Province
Republic of South Africa**

23 June 2022

RESPONSE

PILANESBERG NATURE RESERVE ROADS CONDITIONS

The state of roads in Pilanesberg Nature Reserve has been a concern to the North West Parks Board and provincial government for several years due to limited budget from the provincial government for the Board to continuously repair and maintain the park roads infrastructure. It is only recently that provincial government committed funds that are set to be allocated over the next three years through a phased in approach. However, the park management and partners in the past two months started an initiative that filled over 2 000 potholes with the help of the Pilanesberg Wildlife Trust, volunteers and park officials.

The fact of the matter is that Pilanesberg tar roads were constructed in the 1980's. Most if not all have past their life time span and cannot be repaired anymore as stated by Mr. Jacobs. To this end,

Management has received an estimated cost of R2 million/km after soliciting quotations and a report from engineers who indicated that the base and sub-base layers of the road have been compromised due to water leakage through cracks and potholes in the surface layer. Fit to say that the tar roads (except the paved roads) must be milled, recycled and paved from scratch.

The sad reality is that the gravel roads are and have reached the same state of deterioration due to the very low road maintenance budgets and lack of re-graveling of the roads. Continuous grading, rain, vehicle traffic etc., has damaged the surface layer of gravel in some areas which are now worn out and showing of the bedrock. This makes it very difficult to grade the roads since large areas will require re-graveling, levelling and compacting. The re-graveling is estimated at R300 000/km which way above the parks road budget. It is unfortunate that the park can only attend to priority areas at this stage.

Surface to say that management is busy exploring other avenues to raise funding to address the issue of infrastructure parks. Management is adamant that the involvement of the private sector through private public partnerships will assist to restore the former glory and status of Pilanesberg, while in the meantime, management is addressing the most pressing problems through assistance from existing private groups.

We do acknowledge that the roads issue may drag a few months, if not years and that our guests will be victims to the roads conditions as Mr. Jacobs. We are aware that patching of the roads is a temporary solution, but we are hopeful that funding will be made available soon.

As for the Mr. Jacobs's incident. Cold asphalt was used to repair the many potholes that existed before his visit to the park. Due to many potholes that had to be filled in such a short time, there was no time to cut the pothole sides, clear them and roll the newly laid asphalt

and assurance by manufacturer of the cold asphalt that the pressure from vehicles wheels will be adequate to compact the asphalt. Clearly, this was not the case given Mr. Jacobs incident of which management sincerely apologies to Mr. Jacobs and hope that the roads will be better during his next visit. Management is working tirelessly to ensure that our guests receives value for their money.

We hope and trust that Mr. Jacobs understands our predicament and apologies once again for the mishap.

End.

ISSUED BY

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