



public works,  
roads & transport

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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UmNyango wezemiSebenzi  
yomPhakathi, zeeNdlela  
nezokuThutha

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## MEDIA ALERT

**All Media Houses  
28 March 2026**

### For Immediate Release

### GRADER HIJACKED IN MORGENZON AREA – PUBLIC URGED TO ASSIST

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport is appealing to members of the public for assistance following a violent hijacking incident involving departmental machinery.

On 27 March 2026, a grader operator was attacked, assaulted, and tied up while carrying out routine road maintenance work on Road D500 at KwaZibhebhu, near Morgenzon. The suspects subsequently hijacked the grader.

The stolen machine is a Volvo grader, bearing registration number GRC 209 MG.

The incident was reported to the South African Police Service, and a case has been opened under case number 305/03/2026.

Preliminary information indicates that a criminal syndicate may be involved. The suspects are believed to be moving the grader towards the Eswatini border, possibly using gravel roads to evade detection. The last tracker signal placed the machine in the vicinity of Ermelo.

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo, said: "This violent attack is unacceptable. We call for swift action against those responsible and urge the public to assist with information that can help recover the grader."

The Department urges farmers, community members, and anyone with access to surveillance or roadside cameras to remain alert and assist in locating the stolen grader.

Anyone with information is urged to contact:

Mr Reuben Masindi 078 884 9972 or Alternatively, report to the nearest police station.

Ends.

**For media enquiries please contact Mr Bongani Dhlamini on 0792936515**

