

Rhino Building, Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Ext. 2, Mbombela, 1200,
Mpumalanga Province
Private Bag X11310, Mbombela, 1200, Mpumalanga Province
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6850, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8497, E-mail:fdhlamini@mpg.gov.za

Litiko	Letemisebenti	Departement van	Openbare	UmNyango	wezemiSebenzi
Yemphakatsi,	Temigwaco	Werke,		yomPhakathi,	zeeNdlela
Netekutfutsa		Paaie en Vervoer		nezokuThutha	

Media Statement All Media Houses

Date: 14 May 2025
For Immediate Release

Subject: Community warned against illegal sand mining under the bridge on D4399 road in Bushbuckridge

The Mpumalanga Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport condemns unequivocally the illegal sand mining activities currently taking place beneath the bridge on D4399 road , which connects Thulamahashe and Edinburgh in Bushbuckridge Local Municipality. These unlawful activities pose a significant threat not only to the integrity of the bridge but also to the safety of the communities that rely on this vital infrastructure.

The Department has received reports indicating that illegal sand miners are extracting sand beneath the bridge, compromising its structural stability. Such activities are extremely dangerous and can lead to the collapse of the bridge, which would have severe consequences, including loss of life, disruption of transport, and substantial financial costs for repairs.

We call upon all individuals and entities involved in these illegal activities to cease immediately. Engaging in unauthorized sand mining is unlawful and endangers public safety and infrastructure. The Department is actively monitoring the situation and is prepared to take appropriate enforcement action against offenders.

Furthermore, the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr Thulasizwe Thomo is calling upon all stakeholders in the area to intervene without delay. Local authorities, community leaders, and other relevant structures are urged to collaborate and implement measures to halt these activities before irreversible damage occurs.

The Department emphasizes that once the bridge is compromised or collapses, the cost of repairs will be substantial, and the safety risks to our communities will be unavoidable. We appeal to all stakeholders to prioritize safety and to act responsibly to protect our infrastructure and residents. We remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of our roads and bridges and will continue to work with all relevant authorities to address this issue promptly.

Ends.

For more information please contact Mr Bongani Dhlamini on 079 293 6515