



DIRECTORATE: COMMUNICATION

Great concern at the ongoing vandalism plundering, and pillaging of road infrastructure assets on Mahikeng-Lichtenburg road and elsewhere...

Date: Wednesday, November 04, 2020

The department of Public Works and Roads has expressed outrage and disillusionment at the alarming rate vandalism and theft of road infrastructure assets taking place on the dual carriage-way from Mahikeng to Lichtenburg.

Thieves have also made off with barbed-wire parameter fence, less than week after it was erected by the contractor along the road from Setlagole to Delareyville. This is one in this districts which has undergone sectional rehabilitation works.

Back to Mahikeng, more than 100 meters of the steel parameter fence on both sides of the dual carriage way is already missing, and now the pillaging has turned on the guard rails.

Worst affected, are sections, around the residential settlement near the Rooigrond Prison and villages of Dihatshwane and Mosiane View.

The fence worth millions of rands was meant to keep stray animals off the road.

These were also the main cause of fatal accidents before the multi-million rand upgrade of the road was initiated.

It is not clear to who the culprits behind this destruction of the road assets are.

What was a job well by a sub-contractors barely three month ago on Mahikeng-Lichtenburg road and also in Setlagole, is now a eyesore.

More than a dozen gaping holes, ranging between 10 metres to 20 metres of missing fence ripped from the supporting poles greet road users.

The gaping holes in the fence and uprooted guard-railing are turned into make-shift entry and exist points by residents and stray animals alike.

“The theft and vandalism has now created a serious challenge in that, it is now very risky to other roads users to drive on that section of the road, as stray animals now pose a serious threat to other road users of road users including pedestrians,” said Luambo Mafune, Director: Road Planning and Design.

“Very soon, victims of road accident on these roads will be suing the department for accidents caused by stray animals forgetting about the thieves vandalising these assets on the daily basis,” he said.

“Why affected communities choose to turn a blind eye when this is happening right under their noses really boggles the mind,” lamented Mafune

“We cannot take one good step forward in improving the road and its assets only to take 10 steps backwards in terms of costs and time doing repair work caused deliberately by invisible individuals who may be known to communities,” warned Mafune.

“Safety of road users and that of residents is being seriously compromised by such irresponsible acts of stealing road infrastructure asses that we as government invested for much money in. This has to stop at some point and the sooner the better ,” he said.

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