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North West appoints two companies to finish work on the Koster-Lichtenburg road.

Date: Tuesday, August 16, 2011

It will cost the North West department of Public Works, Roads and Transport more than R126million for the completion of the remainder of the rehabilitation work on the road between Koster and Lichtenburg.

The department confirmed the appointments yesterday (Tues) of two successful road construction companies following an open tender process that kicked- in after the termination of the previous contractor, Kaulani Civils, because of poor performance.

The newly appointed contractors are:

Down Touch Investments (Pty) Ltd and Jodan Construction (Pty) Ltd.

Both are expected to finish work on the two portions within 12 months.

Down Touch Investment is to complete within seven months the 50km stretch of road outside Lichtenburg towards Koster at the cost of more than R93.5m. Jodan Construction would work on the 10km portion from Koster town towards Lichtenburg for five months.

The contract value of their portion is R32.5m.

“We have to deliver a quality road and do it fast. We owe this to hundreds of road users, who indeed can no longer hide their frustrations and the suffering endured on this particular road,” said provincial MEC for Public Works Roads and Transport, Mahlakeng Mahlakeng.

Asked what informed the decision to appoint more than one contractor for project, Mahlakeng said:

“We did this deliberately in order to give meaning to our new approach to unbundle huge projects in order to give other people an opportunity to also develop. Emerging contractors cannot be forever emerging.”

Kaulani Civils were awarded the R208million contract to rehabilitate the said road in the early 2009, but work on the project fell far behind schedule on several occasions. In terms of the revised extension the roads was to have been completed by the end of June this year.

The department has paid the company approximately R115m for work already done on the road.