



## Poised to rumble wherever and whenever required...

**Date:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017

As reported in the last issue of Newsworth, the Department of Public Works and Roads finally took delivery of four high-priced brand new tractor excavators at its workshop in Mahikeng.

The delivery of these highly sought heavy machinery, could not have arrived at a better time when such is a critically ingredient to comprehensive long terms strategy to deal with the maintenance of gravel roads.

As of now, critical gravel roads, especially in the outlying areas of the province used farming communities are in an terrible state and inaccessible as a result of torrential rains and floods in large areas of the province in the past four weeks.

It is for the first time ever, that the department has taken a calculated risk to purchase R11.5m worth of track excavators .

The 30-ton imported heavy plant machinery at a cost of approximately R2,7million each is aimed at resourcing road construction plant especially in view of the need to regravell several roads in the province.

" This is the first piece of equipment for any regravelling operation to dig and load soil onto tipper trucks," confirmed Puvi Poovendran, Chief Mechanical Engineer.

He said operators have been identified and were currently undergoing training to ensure the the department get optimum value from these machines operated by properly trained personeel.

Poovndrum explained that this was ``the most hired"piece of machinery by the department in the past for purposes of regravelling but would make business sense for the department to purchase its own plant.

" Pant hire is only to be used during time of the breakdown of our own. Plant should not be hired continuously while departmental plant is parked aside....," he said.

Turning to the current fleet of motor graders, Poovendran said the total number of graders required for the proper maintenance of all provincial gravel roads is about 150. However the department has 96 motor graders and 40 percent has passed their replacement age.

**ENDS**

Issued by **Communication Directorate**  
Contact Person: **Matshube Mfoloe**  
Contact Number: 018 388 4451  
E-mail: [mmfoloe@nwpg.gov.za](mailto:mmfoloe@nwpg.gov.za)

