

Hello

2024

KWAZULU-NATAL

Produced by SANRAL



In a 37-month construction project by SANRAL an approximately 13.7km section of the N2 from the KwaMashu Interchange to Umdloti River Bridge is being upgraded from a four-lane dual carriageway to up to an eight-lane dual carriageway, which will greatly ease traffic congestion.





MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

ROADS IN KWAZULU-NATAL HELP TO GROW THE ECONOMY

We all know the importance of good roads to connect people, products, and services – they are essential for economic growth. The ports in KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) provide inland provinces and landlocked neighbouring countries with an important outlet to transport and import goods and services to other countries. The roads in KZN connect the provinces to our neighbouring countries as well as to the other provinces in South Africa. The work we are doing in KZN is important to ensure that the economy of the province grows.

In terms of budget, KZN gets by far the biggest spend, mainly because of the work being done on the N3, where we have several projects, as well as on the N2. We are also spending a considerable amount of money upgrading the N2/N3 interchange just outside Durban, and on a range of projects on other roads.

Our relationship with all of our stakeholders is vitally important to SANRAL. This is why we have regular engagements with stakeholders, namely communities, different levels of government, and all other key role-players in the province.

In this publication we look at some of the work we are doing in the province, including the upgrades on the N3 and the latest contracts that have been awarded, the N11 upgrades through Ladysmith, the major construction

and upgrades on the N3 between the Westville Viaduct and the Paradise Valley interchange, and the construction and upgrades of the N2 near Kokstad.

We also look at the SMME success stories coming out of completion of the R22 and the certificate handover ceremony for more than 300 workers employed on the R5 billion N2/N3 EB Cloete Interchange ('spaghetti junction') upgrade in Durban.

You can also read more about one of the important projects being coordinated by SANRAL for the Minister of Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga, the Vala Zonke pothole repair project. We also look at the Minister's recent visit to Edendale and the Msunduzi Municipality in Pietermaritzburg.

In one of our regular features, the Pink Hat Corner, we showcase empowerment of women in the construction industry, with an interview with one of the many women engineers who work for SANRAL.

Enjoy the read.

REGINALD DEMANA | SANRAL CEO

Message from the MEC

WE VALUE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH SANRAL

The significance of SANRAL's contributions to infrastructure development in the KwaZulu-Natal province is evident through the extensive construction activities observed on major highways and freeways within our region. SANRAL's diligent efforts are aimed at enhancing our road network, thereby fostering economic growth.

Over the past two years, the national roads agency has played a pivotal role in addressing road damage caused by unforeseen and unprecedented floods. SANRAL undertook the task of repairing numerous roads, even those not typically under their jurisdiction, assisting in the recovery efforts after a significant natural disaster.

Additionally, we express gratitude for SANRAL's endeavours, under the directive of the Minister of Transport, to address the issue of potholes

nationwide, with a particular focus on KwaZulu-Natal. It is acknowledged that the Minister has prioritised the maintenance of roads in our province, and SANRAL is actively working towards ensuring that our roads achieve world-class standard.

While there may be individuals who voice concerns about the presence of construction sites on major roads, it is important to recognise that this temporary inconvenience is outweighed by the long-term benefits these improved roads will bring, both to users and to the provincial economy.

As the Department of Transport responsible for provincial roads, we are pleased to maintain a productive and mutually beneficial partnership with SANRAL.



SIPHO HLOMUKA | MEC FOR TRANSPORT, KWAZULU-NATAL

N11 upgrades through Ladysmith

The N11 corridor is integral to the economic growth of Southern Africa, as it links the Port of Durban (via the N3) with the mining towns of Mpumalanga province and neighbouring countries in the SADC region.

Heavy vehicles travelling between Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal, coupled with local commuter traffic in the towns along the N1, present many safety challenges for road users. The upgrades to the N11 will resolve the chronic traffic congestion and reduce road carnage, providing greater mobility, increased safety, and reduced travel time.

Currently the route is a single carriageway, with one lane in each direction. This restricts vehicle movement, and there are limited overtaking opportunities. Due to the substantial costs to upgrade the N11, construction work between the N11/R103

interchange and Nkunzi River has been unbundled into two separate contracts, both within the limits of Alfred Duma Local Municipality, which is part of uThukela District Municipality:

- package 1 from Ladysmith South (N11/R103 interchange) to Elandslaagte – a distance of 28km, and
- package 2 from Elandslaagte to Nkunzi River – a distance of 20.1km.

Work on the N11 will include the widening of existing bridges, construction of a new road-over-rail bridge, upgrades to existing intersections and the addition of new lanes. Within Ladysmith the road will also be upgraded.

By unbundling the contracts into two phases and multiple work packages, SANRAL endeavours to provide opportunities

to multiple companies and to ensure greater participation of established and emerging contractors in the project.

The total number of full-time equivalent direct jobs to be created is 850. An estimated R200 million will be spent on local labour wages, while R875 million will be spent on targeted black-owned enterprises (SMMEs) over the next 6 years.

Training will follow the requirements of the Construction Industry Development Boards (CIDB) Skills Development gazette for infrastructure projects. In terms of this, a minimum of 0.25% needs to be spent on the Contract Skills Development Goals (CSDG), resulting in an equivalent spend of R6.25 million. However, SANRAL intends to spend far beyond the minimum per project in order to expand on the CSDG training.



Celebrating women in construction

Employee Name:
Sanchia Pillay

Designation:
Project Manager:
Design and
Construction, Eastern
Region

Academic Accolades:
BSc Engineering (Civil)



THE PINK HARD HAT CORNER

1. What do you enjoy most about being a civil engineer?

As a civil engineer working primarily with large-scale road design and construction projects, I find joy in witnessing designs transform from technical drawings into physical infrastructure through construction on the ground. I also enjoy that I am an influential part of this process, bringing design concepts into reality.

Furthermore, the impact that national roads have on the communities they serve is a continual source of motivation. The improved connectivity creates economic growth and facilitates the movement of people and goods, ultimately contributing to the development of our nation's infrastructure.

2. What has been your most memorable project at SANRAL?

One of the most defining projects during my time at SANRAL has been the upgrade of the Hammarsdale Interchange on the N3. As a fresh graduate stepping into the workforce, I had the privilege of being involved from the very beginning. Witnessing this project evolve from design concepts to an infrastructure serving the community has been an incredibly rewarding experience.

Initially, I was involved in the design phase. Being part of this technical phase was an excellent introduction to the field of applied engineering principles. Then during the construction phase I participated in the project as an Assistant Resident Engineer. This transition provided me with invaluable first-hand experience – I wasn't just working with designs and drawings, I was overseeing the real-world implementation of those designs.

Seeing the completed interchange being used by the public, a project that I had a direct hand in shaping, solidified the impact of civil engineering for me. The improved traffic flow at the interchange not only alleviated congestion but also served as a catalyst for growth and development in the surrounding area.

This experience at the Hammarsdale Interchange illustrated the transformative power of civil engineering to me: It's not just about creating structures, it's about crafting solutions that improve people's lives and propel progress.

3. What personal qualities help you succeed in your job?

In my role as a civil engineer, I find that several key personal qualities contribute to my success. One of the most important is a strong desire to serve the public good. Civil engineering projects have a direct and lasting impact on communities, and this perspective shapes my approach.

I strive to ensure that all stakeholders are considered throughout the design process. While efficient traffic flow is undeniably important, I believe the best outcomes prioritise not only mobility but also safety and the potential for community growth. This necessitates a holistic approach that considers the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transportation alongside those of motorists. Ultimately, my goal is to design roads that benefit all users and contribute positively to the communities they serve.

See www.nra.co.za to find out more about SANRAL's bursaries and scholarships. Applications for 2025 open on 1 June 2024 and close on 30 September 2024.

Major construction and upgrades on the N3 between the Westville Viaduct and Paradise Valley interchange started on 1 October 2023. This R4.7 billion project is expected to extend over about 51 months. It includes provision of an additional one and two lanes to create a varying four- to six-lane dual carriageway plus auxiliary lanes where required.

Upgrades will also be made to Eden Road, the Paradise Valley interchange, including the M13 provincial route, and the Westville interchange, including Spine Road. There will also be major bridge construction works, including widening of the Westville and Paradise Valley Viaducts that are 25m to 30m in height above both valleys.

Areas that will be affected are Pinetown, Westville, Hillcrest, Kloof, Mariannhill and the Pavilion Mall. The construction will also impact all road users who travel to major destinations, including the Port of Durban and King Shaka International Airport.

Work on the 5.74km stretch of the N3 route will include provision of pedestrian and public transport facilities, and pedestrian walkways with concrete barriers and taxi laybys.

Services affected by the capacity improvement will be relocated, with construction of mass earthworks for pavement widening, bridge upgrades on affected interchanges, and drainage for both crossings and road surface.

Additionally, SANRAL will construct gravel pavement, including selected layers and stabilised sub-base, and construct and widen new overpasses and bridge structures: the Westville Viaduct, Langford Road overpass, Lancaster Road overpass, Dudley Road overpass, St James Avenue bridge, Eden Road bridge and Paradise Valley Viaduct.

It will also undertake electrical works, including the installation of street lighting along the entire section.

There was full closure of the Lancaster Bridge over the N3 from 26 to 28 February 2024 to facilitate demolition and reconstruction of that bridge (B0461). The N3 was closed from 11 March to 5 April 2024 to allow for the placement of concrete barriers from the Westville Viaduct to Paradise Valley interchange. The lane closure affected the westbound slow lane of the N3/M13 offramp from the Duncan Barrett Road underpass to the N3 merger.

Upgrades to N3: Westville Viaduct to Paradise Valley



Successful **engagement** between educational institutions and construction companies

In April SANRAL hosted the Umgungundlovu TVET and the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) at the offices of the iX Engineers and Base Major companies, which are constructing the EB Cloete Interchange.

"SANRAL's transformation office was approached by CETA to get work exposure for their lecturers at TVET colleges in KZN. The request stemmed from a concern to ensure alignment between industry and vocational training institutions, as some lecturers and junior lecturers only have theoretical knowledge – hence the visit, to acquire practical knowledge which will be transferred to their students," said Marketing and Communications Specialist at SANRAL, Nomcebo Cebekhulu.

"This was a highly successful engagement between business and training institutions. The lecturers who visited the offices are teaching civil engineering, and they observed the latest trends applied on construction sites. SANRAL is committed to continuing to provide such training sessions, as the crucial role of training within industry has gained significant importance in today's dynamic job market. TVET colleges which will benefit from the programme include Umfolozi, Majuba and Elangeni, among others," Cebekhulu added.

"This initiative provides vital exposure between CETA and SANRAL. It is designed to give exposure to students on site, as they are mostly based in the class. They have no exposure to the modern equipment and technologies. This event will help lecturers pass their experience on to their students.

Earlier this year lecturers from the Umfolozi and Elangeni TVET Colleges visited on site at the Kokstad Interchange," said Mfundo Khawula from CETA in KwaZulu-Natal.

TVET colleges focus on vocational and occupational education and training, preparing students to become functional workers in a skilled trade. They are equipped to educate and train at tertiary level and provide learners with a pathway to career success.

A great benefit of attending a TVET college is the major focus on the employability of learners, where part of the curriculum requires them to complete experiential training, internships and apprenticeships.

David Vivier, Engineer at iX Engineers, said it was very useful for colleges to observe the work done on the sites "as this hands-on experience provides learners with an understanding of the impact of what they are studying has on the future of the country. The lecturers getting knowledge and passing it onto the students will go a long way in helping them get placements in the industry."

Sihle Ngcobo, a lecturer in Civil Engineering at uMgungundlovu TVET College was excited that the visit provided them with "a glimpse of what is happening out there, from the conceptualisation to the finalisation of projects. Also, as educators we know where our students can get placed and get work opportunities, so this will encourage them that their studies can be beneficial in the near future. We would have loved to get these opportunities ourselves, but now our students are going to be more knowledgeable through this initiative by SANRAL."



N3 road construction upgrades for Msunduzi Municipality



The N2/N3 project upgrade, which is part of President Cyril Ramaphosa's Strategic Integrated Projects (SIP2), continues to propel economic growth in the vital Durban-Free State-Gauteng logistics and industrial corridor.

The N3 programme is broken into 15 projects focusing on 79.3km of road between Durban and Pietermaritzburg and has a total value of R33 billion (excluding the PMB Ring road).

The Ashburton Interchange to Murray Road project, which has a contract value of R2.4 billion, is now 15% complete. The project scope includes the construction of two additional lanes per carriageway, a concrete pavement, bridge widening, rehabilitation of the R103, and unique on- and off-ramps over a 5km stretch. The project is in the vicinity of Msunduzi Municipality.

SANRAL has mandated that 30% of the total contract should be spent on construction works through designated and targeted groups, as stipulated by its Transformation Policy. To date, six targeted subcontractors have been appointed and nine students from TVET colleges and universities are temporarily employed to gain their in-service training experience.

The Murray Road to New England Road project is on a 6.5km stretch and is valued at R2 billion. It is also in the vicinity of Msunduzi Municipality, and is now 7% complete. The project includes the construction of two additional lanes, bridge widening, and upgrading of the R103 and select local municipality streets.

The project has a R650 million contract participation goal, with approximately 9% of the budget spent to date. Ninety-three full-time equivalent jobs have been created to date, with six targeted subcontractors empowered on the project as of February 2024. All SANRAL projects or sub-projects will be monitored for adherence to its Transformation Policy, which intends to empower previously disadvantaged groups and individuals.

The N3 project upgrades are being carried out on one of the busiest freeways in the SADC region. SANRAL has ongoing safety campaigns and traffic management interventions on the N3 to limit traffic interruptions and ensure the safety of motorists.

Road safety

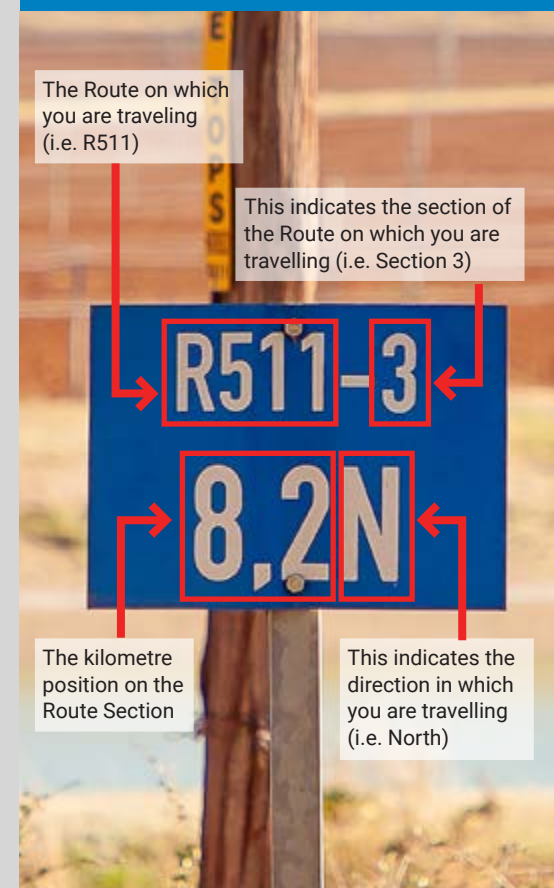
Test your knowledge

Do you know what route marker boards are and their importance?

Have you asked yourself: What do the blue signage plates next to the national roads, like the N1, N2 and N6, mean?

In the event of an incident, the road user would pinpoint their location for the emergency services by providing the details on the marker closest to him or her on the National Road. Route marker boards are located every 200m on national routes. Find your closest board and note the details to ensure the response team has an accurate location.

Route Marker Board



R511-3:

R511 – indicates the road/route on which you are travelling, while the 3 (next to the R511) shows the section of the R511 on which you are travelling.

8,2N:

8,2 – indicates the kilometre position on the route section.

N – indicates the direction in which you are travelling, for example, the north direction.

The elevation of road safety is a national priority and SANRAL has a clearly defined role to provide safe roads and infrastructure and play a prominent part in road safety education and awareness. The roads agency makes an essential contribution to road safety through the provision of safe roads. SANRAL encourages safe behaviour among all road users, whether drivers, passengers or pedestrians.

SANRAL brings cheer to KwaNgwanase

Carving out a path to a better life for ordinary South Africans while developing the country's road infrastructure is at the heart of every project that SANRAL undertakes.

The people of KwaNgwanase in northern KwaZulu-Natal felt the direct impact of this when the roads agency completed work on a multimillion-rand upgrade to the R22. The work covered a 3km stretch of road and a 2.8km bypass road on the national road that connects the N2 at Hluhluwe with the Mozambique border at Kosi Bay, via Mbazwana and KwaNgwanase.

More than 230 families have benefitted from work opportunities arising from the project. About R35 million was set aside for local small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) owned by women and youth within uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality.

One beneficiary, Sizwe Mncube (24) of Ekuthukuzeni in KwaNgwanase, described the SANRAL project as "life changing". "Change has come to my life. I was not working but, because of this project, I am now employed. I can support my family and I have gained much-needed skills in road construction," he said.

Thobile Gumede (28) added: "I am witnessing a great development in my town, and I am happy to be part of this history. We have learnt a lot – including being cautious on the road because some careless drivers can kill us. I share with my family what I learn from this project."

For about two years, the town of KwaNgwanase was buzzing with SANRAL engineers and construction workers. The R22 was upgraded from two to four lanes and stormwater drains were being built under the main road in town. The road has been furnished with street lighting to improve the general safety of all road users after construction.

uMhlabuyalingana Local Municipality Mayor, Thembinkosi Khumalo, expressed his gratitude to SANRAL. "When the project started, we had to move street traders from the road to an appropriate place to continue doing business, without disturbing the road project.

"SANRAL donated 10 market stalls for street traders to continue business. We are so grateful that the bypass road has been surfaced, giving road users the option to avoid town, because it causes a lot of traffic," he said.

SANRAL also included a project for the construction of 50 market stalls, which some of the informal traders previously within the R22 road reserve have been relocated to. This project was carried out in two phases using two individual local subcontractors.

A separate project was undertaken for construction of an animal pound to be used by the municipality in an effort to reduce stray animals along the route, thereby improving the safety of the travelling public.

SANRAL's Eastern Region Project Manager Andrew Ssekayita said the aim of the project was to alleviate congestion in the town by providing additional capacity in the form of extra travel lanes through the urban area, and upgrading the approaching sections in rural areas.

"The approaches on both sides of the town have been improved through widening and rehabilitation of the existing road to include surfaced shoulders," he said. "Along the urban section through town the upgraded road provides four lanes with concrete sidewalks and improved access to business properties."

Ssekayita said that as part of the project and to relieve traffic through town, the 2.8km bypass road which was upgraded to surfaced standard acts as a detour road during construction, and provides improved long-term local access to the community.



SANRAL's R563 million Kokstad project changes lives

The Kokstad Interchange and Traffic Control Centre project has opened the doors to lucrative business opportunities for local emerging subcontractors, empowered their employees and rewarded the community.

It forms part of SANRAL's mission to forge ahead with an economic transformation drive that ultimately trickles down to the most deserving of our country. Many community members and their families gain from employment on this massive R563 million construction project.

Nomsindisi Fazzie (42) now has a roof over her head after building herself a two-bedroomed house in the local township of Shayamoya. Winiswa Ngwanya (34) had been sitting at home in the same township, unemployed. "I am so happy and thankful that SANRAL has provided me with an opportunity to earn a living and take care of my three children. My life has changed for the better," she said.

Fazzie and Ngwanya are flag persons employed by the youth-owned Cing'ba Construction and Project Management company that operates from the local Bhongweni township. They are among 28 local people employed full time to work on construction of a new interchange on the N2 to replace the old one with the R56. It comprises a new three-span bridge which will carry traffic on the R56 over the N2 towards Kokstad and south towards Mthatha in the Eastern Cape.

Cing'ba is involved in traffic accommodation on the project, which entails installing signage and diverting traffic during the inevitable disruptions that result from construction works of this magnitude.

Managing Director Mkhumbuleni Matta (31) is not shy to share the good news of growth and development as a direct result of this partnership with SANRAL. His company has been able to invest in eight bakkies and a truck.

"We were appointed at R4.1 million for 24 months, but there have been extensions. We started operating in July 2022 and were supposed to end in February 2023, but I have heard there is going to be an extension up to August. With variation orders, we could go up to R9.1 million. That means we can then be

contracted by SANRAL directly, unlike now when we are subcontractors," he said.

Matta underlines how the project has brought about many changes in the company, the economy, the town, and the community of Kokstad.

"We have been able to develop our employees, who only had matric before we trained them through this project. They have now qualified as flag persons and can go on to work elsewhere after completion of this project. We have also been able to transfer skills; one of our employees is now a qualified traffic safety officer who supervises all our flag staff on the site," he said.

Matta is particularly proud that through the work Cing'ba has undertaken on this project, it has grown from a Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) level grade 4 to grade 6. Contractor grading is determined by financial and works capability.

Cing'ba has not forgotten the humble background of its founders. It has reached out to the Kokstad community to donate pairs of new school shoes to a centre for children who need additional care. Matta and his business partners have donated jerseys and uniforms to the less privileged in their childhood neighbourhood.

They have also partnered with a mobile telecommunication company to provide internet connectivity and gadgets to local learners.

Matta admits that for emerging young black business owners, life is not always smooth sailing. "There are challenges for smaller companies like ours. When you start, it is never easy, but it is a journey. We are thankful that we have been given an opportunity by SANRAL to prove ourselves. We can do the work because we employ qualified people. We know what we do. We have been in the game for some time now, because the company was established back in 2015. We have the experience."

SANRAL has paved the way in more ways than one, assisting the local community and emerging enterprises of the region to change their lives for the better and open more gates to prosperity through the Kokstad Interchange and Traffic Control Centre project.





War on potholes

Transport Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga (right) raking hot asphalt to repair potholes on Selby Msimang Avenue in Pietermaritzburg.

Transport Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga said in February 2024 that South Africa's pothole plague would be a thing of the past, as the Operation Vala Zonke campaign gained greater momentum across the country.

Minister Chikunga took the government's war on potholes to Inadi just outside Pietermaritzburg, where she inspected work being done to repair stretches of Selby Msimang Avenue, one of the main roads in Msunduzi Municipality.

SANRAL, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government and Msunduzi Local Municipality collaborated to fix potholes in and around Pietermaritzburg. SANRAL coordinates the national campaign to eradicate potholes, commonly known as Operation Vala Zonke, on behalf of the National Department of Transport.

She said: "Operation Vala Zonke is coordinated by SANRAL and, working together with provincial and local government structures, this campaign is helping to eradicate the

source of potholes throughout the country. We can assure motorists and all road users that our government, in partnership with the private sector, is making steady progress in the repair of vital road infrastructure".

Addressing community members at Inadi, Minister Chikunga said government had significantly improved the national road infrastructure and was working hard to ensure that provincial and local roads were able to transport people and goods. "Through SANRAL we are building world-class roads and interchanges, demonstrating excellent engineering skills in the process," she said. "Our transport system is key to moving our country's economy. Over the last 30 years, this government has delivered impressive road infrastructure and we will continue to spend billions of rands in the construction industry to improve and maintain our roads, creating jobs, empowering small- and medium-sized businesses, and ensuring that we continue to grow our country's economy for the benefit of our people. This government has undertaken to accelerate the creation of jobs by improving road and rail infrastructure. We are attracting investors as we improve freight logistics and we are promoting our young graduates to provide excellent engineering," she said.

Minister Chikunga also handed over 430 bicycles to learners from schools in Msunduzi Local Municipality as part of Operation Siyakha, an initiative of the National Department of Transport to enable easier access to education for learners who live far from their schools.

She said that the Department of Transport had distributed 120,000 bicycles across the country since 2001, benefitting more than 24,000 deserving learners to date who previously walked from 3km to 5km to and from school every day.

"We are helping thousands of children to get to school every single day, providing bicycles and helmets and even reflector jackets. That is real evidence – not just talk – of this government helping to make a difference in the lives of young people, particularly in the rural areas of our country."

Learners from Mbanjwa and Ncwadi Primary, Enati Senior Secondary as well as Ngcedomhlope, Inqwangele, Ntabende and Qoqisizwe High Schools were among those who benefitted from the initiative.

Certificates awarded at EB Cloete Interchange

SANRAL's Eastern Region Office took part in a certificate handover ceremony for more than 300 workers employed on the R5 billion N2/N3 EB Cloete Interchange upgrades in Durban. Popularly known as 'spaghetti junction', these upgrades are managed by a joint venture between Base Major Construction and China State Construction Engineering. Foremen, engineers, supervisors, shutter hands and general workers received training in a range of safety and skills courses, covering the whole spectrum of construction industry work.

Civil contracts director for the joint venture, Wade Leaf, congratulated the employees on their achievements and encouraged them to continue seizing development opportunities that will be provided in future.

"The training courses that we have been on since the beginning to now have ranged from a lot of safety-type courses and skills courses. In as much as we have focused on safety, I think we all have to remember that we have had quite a serious safety incident that happened on site. Every time we do an awards ceremony, we need to remember that we are upskilling ourselves so that those kinds of incidents don't impact us again in the future," Leaf said.

SANRAL's Marketing and Communications Specialist, Nomcebo Cebekhulu, extended words of gratitude to the workers on behalf of the roads agency. "Thank you very much for being part of our vision, as we would not be able to do this work without you. The N2/N3 projects form part of our priority projects valued at over R48 billion. These mega projects present learning, training and skills transfer opportunities that will equip you for a lifetime," she said.

"Training is a vital component which accelerates transformation in the industry. As SANRAL that is something we pride ourselves on. We wish to leave a mark in communities where we operate, so we don't just build a road without making a visible change in the lives of local people," she added.

Cebekhulu emphasised how SANRAL ensures communities are employed in its labour forces across various projects, such as through the training provided by Base Major and China State Construction. She added that the technical expertise gained on this project would open more doors for the trainees, as the courses are accredited by the relevant authorities.





FAQS

All you need to know about Operation Vala Zonke

In response to the challenge of potholes in the country, the National Department of Transport (NDoT) launched the national campaign to fix potholes, called Operation Vala Zonke, on 8 August 2022. The NDoT called for a joint effort by the 9 provinces and all 278 municipalities, comprising 8 metropolitan, 44 district and 226 local municipalities. Much has been achieved since the launch, but there's still a lot of work to be done to eradicate potholes on South African roads. Here is what you need to know about the campaign and the progress to date.

- The municipal network is estimated at just over 320,000km (nearly 88,000km paved).
- This means that SANRAL is only responsible for fixing potholes on national roads, while the provinces and municipalities are responsible for fixing provincial and municipal roads. The rest are unproclaimed gravel roads, mainly serving rural communities, and not owned or maintained by any road authority.

4. WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PROVINCE ON THE POTHOLE ERADICATION

The KZN province has been very responsive to the Transport Minister's request for all spheres of government to jointly wage a war against potholes. Subsequent to the Minister's site visit in uMunduzi Municipality on 18 February, the KZN Department of Transport has reported to have completed a total of 957,000 square metres of pothole related road works amounting to R36 million in expenditure since the project's inception. The pothole eradication program has also been used to alleviate youth unemployment. On 3 May 2024, the Minister also visited Manguzi in uMhlabuyalingana Municipality to assess project progress on Operation Vala Zonke. SANRAL's budgeted contract value for Operation Vala Zonke on P522 in Manguzi is estimated at R3 million.

5. HOW CAN THE PUBLIC REPORT POTHOLE?

SANRAL launched the SANRAL Pothole App for the public to be able to report potholes easily. Citizens can simply download the free app – available on iOS and Android phones – register and immediately begin reporting potholes. The app allows the user to take a picture of the pothole, while the system automatically records the GPS location and then sends the information to the relevant authority, depending on the location. The solution is here, but it can only be fully effective when everyone plays their part.

1. WHAT IS OPERATION VALA ZONKE AND WHAT IS ITS OBJECTIVE?

Operation Vala Zonke was a call to action by former Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula, for provinces, municipalities, the private sector and the public to come together to eradicate the challenge of potholes on all South African roads.

Subsequent to the launch, the current Minister of Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga officially opened the Operation Vala Zonke War Room at SANRAL COC (Central Operations Centre) in Centurion on 31 July 2023. The purpose of the War Room is to track and coordinate information from the different spheres of government involved in the fixing of potholes.


2. WHEN WAS IT LAUNCHED?

The campaign was officially launched on 8 August 2022 by the Minister of Transport supported by other government officials, including Premiers, MECs, and Mayors from various provinces, departments and municipalities.

3. WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN AND WHAT ARE THEIR ROLES?



SANRAL was appointed as the coordinating agency to drive the campaign, which includes the harmonisation of all data and information on potholes and providing the technology and technical knowledge to ensure quality delivery on the campaign. However, being a coordinating agency does not mean SANRAL is responsible for repairing all the potholes. It is important to understand the legal mandates of the various spheres of government, to understand who is responsible for which roads. South Africa's total road network is estimated at 750,000km, the longest of any African country and the 11th longest in the world. Responsibility for building and maintaining the proclaimed network is divided between SANRAL, provincial and local government authorities:


- SANRAL manages national roads and has a network of 24,384km of paved roads.
- Provinces are responsible for just over 270,000km (46,500km paved).



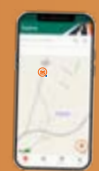
SANRAL POTHOLE APP

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