

Office of the Honourable Mayor

Enquiries: D. Mlenzana

25 August 2016

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY LIMITED**
48 Tambotie Avenue
Val De Grace
Pretoria
0184

Att: Mr. Nazir Alli

**REQUEST FOR SANRAL TO RESURFACE BEAUFORT STREET IN THE GRAHAMSTOWN
CBD**

Dear Mr Alli

The Makana Municipality is a Category B municipality situated in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality in the Eastern Cape Province. It is a small municipality that comprise one major town, namely Grahamstown, and two small nodes of Alicedale and Riebeeck East. The town of Grahamstown is of significance in that it has a rich history even though its full potential has not yet been exploited. The town is known for the Settlers Monument, City of Saints, Rhodes University, High Court, some of the top schools in the country, the National Arts Festival, etc. amongst others. This tapestry of history has put the Grahamstown and as such the Makana Municipality on the map.

However, the municipality has struggled to raise funds in the form of rates and services because most of the inhabitants of the municipality are indigent and as such receive, by and large, free services and do not pay rates. This has put a lot of strain on the meagre budget of the municipality as the tax base is next to nothing. The ailing infrastructure has not helped at all! On previous occasions the residents of Grahamstown have time and again been without portable water because of the collapse of the bulk water infrastructure. This resulted in a huge outcry from stakeholders like the university, the High Court, the residents, etc. Due to lack of funds, the municipality could not timeously respond to this.

Whilst every cent in the kitty of the municipality has been diverted to the bare essentials like, water, sewage, electricity provision, etc., the road network has completely deteriorated such that we have potholes everywhere! While the internal streets are also of grave concern to the municipality; the main road is of major concern and of critical importance to both the inhabitants of the municipality, visitors and through traffic. It is important to note that the main road used to be National Route 2 (N2) before the construction of the Grahamstown Bypass.

Makana Municipality shall strive to ensure sustainable, affordable, equitable and quality services in a just, friendly secure and healthy environment, which promotes social and economic growth for all.

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The main road, which is about 9km long, was transferred to the Department of Roads and Public Works (**DRPW**) after the construction of the Bypass. However, since the transfer of the road, DRPW has not undertaken any sustainable action on the road except fixing potholes which do not last any period of time.

The condition of the road deteriorated sharply last year when SANRAL was resealing the Bypass. The many stop/go areas resulted in motorists driving through town to avoid being delayed. The situation improved marginally after the resealing of the bypass but then SANRAL started with the upgrading of the road from Grahamstown towards Peddie. There are stop/go areas and a series of traffic calming measures on the section that is being constructed. Of course traffic volumes build up at the stop/go areas and long convoys can be seen driving towards Grahamstown as the calming measures take effect. Overtaking opportunities are slim and some motorists prefer to branch off at the R67 and drive through town on the main road (R67). In the meantime the main road is receiving a battering from through traffic and the municipality is almost hapless to intervene.

It is in the light of the above that the municipality appeals to the SANRAL to assist the municipality with the reseal or upgrade of this road. The municipality, with meagre resources, is in no position to maintain this road. We were hoping that SANRAL would not only take over a portion of R67 but the entire route. The DRPW is drowning and does not have the capacity to deal with most of their roads; be they gravel or surfaced roads. It is my hope that SANRAL will be able to engage some of the contractors that are currently operating on the national roads in the vicinity of Grahamstown to deal with this rather urgent matter.

The road is in an extremely poor state of disrepair due to no planned routine maintenance performed on it over time as well as the additional load that has been transferred to it due to the fact that time and again it has been used as a detour whenever routine maintenance had been performed on the N2 that goes around Grahamstown. Furthermore, it is also requested that if the request is approved, the upgrade also include the stormwater management system or infrastructure on the road as it is currently non-functional as well.

Your favorable consideration of this request will be appreciated. For any queries on the issue, please contact Mr. D Mlenzana at 0466036063 or 0824867715.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Nomhle Gaga
EXECUTIVE MAYOR
MAKANA MUNICIPALITY