



MBAMBAMENCISI ROAD GETS AN UPGRADE

The street that serves as a boundary between Nkowankowa Section B and Nkowankowa Section D, commonly known as Mbambamencisi (meaning the search for a matchbox) has been a source of pain for road users and local residents.

This is soon to change as the Greater Tzaneen Municipality is currently implementing a project to upgrade the street from gravel to interlocked bricks paving. An area measuring 1.5km in length will be paved. "People have been complaining about the street before I became a ward councilor and finally the project to upgrade the street is in progress," said Thandy Mpenyana.

"The project started in October 2018 and should be completed by the end of May this year (2019)" said Manana Andries from Project management unit. From June 2019 the community of Nkowankowa will no longer have to wait for a long time to access taxis and buses to work, schools, shopping centers, and other service centers.

According to Nyasha Manyunga, a resident of Nkowankowa D during rainy seasons the situation becomes worse, the road would be full of water because the drainage system installed previously was poor.

Manyunga says taxis do not come to "our side" so it is a struggle for us as commuters".

Manyunga again said he believes the upgraded street will come with a proper drainage system as the place is low lying.

“The project entails the paving of the 1.5km street with 80mm grey interlocking paving blocks as well as stormwater drainage”.

The project has not benefited the community of ward 21 with the road only but it has also created jobs for many people in the area. “I have been without a job for 5 years and I’m glad this project brought change in my life. With the stipend I get every month I am able to provide for my two children who are in tertiary institutions” said Beauty Mabena, the Community Liaison Officer of the project.

According to John Matlala the Manager of the Project management Unit in the municipality, the municipality appointed Makasana Construction to do the R 8.7 million project. Ryntex consulting engineering has been appointed as the consultants of the road project.

By Patricia Muchabi