

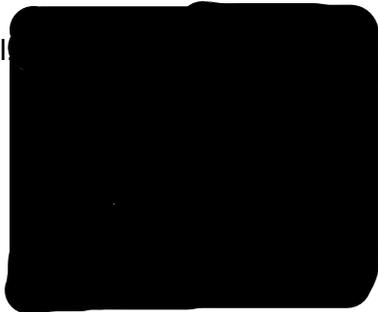
11 March 2026

Mr J. Mbalula
Member of the Executive Council
Free State Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport
Fourth Floor
Perm Building
Charlotte Maxeke Street
BLOEMFONTEIN
9300

CC: Mr TM Ngesi
Municipal Manager
Moghaka Local Municipality
Hill Street
KROONSTAD
9500

Mr P. Hlahla
Sanral Regional Manager
Northern Region
38 Ida Street
Menlo Park/Lynnwood Glen
PRETORIA
0081

Per email



Dear Mr Mbalula

LETTER OF DEMAND: URGENT INTERVENTION REQUIRED AT THE R59 AND AROUND VILJOENSKROON AHEAD OF NAMPO

AfriForum is a non-profit organisation with its main purpose the protection of the constitutional rights of its members and the communities to whom these members belong. We are acting on behalf of our members in Viljoenskroon and Bothaville who gave us the mandate to address this issue.

AfriForum hereby wishes to express its serious concern regarding the deteriorating condition of roads in and around Viljoenskroon, particularly the R59 route which serves as a major access road for visitors travelling to the annual NAMPO Harvest Day in Bothaville.

June 2024

Address: 58 Union Avenue, Kloofsig, Centurion • **Tel.:** 086 10 200 30

Member Affairs – Email: ledesake@afriforum.co.za • **Directors:** Ms A. Bailey, Mr P.J.W. Buys, Dr H.K. Coetzee, Mr P.L. Dekker, Mr F.J.D. de Klerk, Mr G.R. de Vries, Dr D.J. Hermann, Mr W.G. Human, Mr C.M. Kriel and Dr R. Pretorius. • **Company Secretary:** Mr W.A. Vogel.

Registration number: 2005/042861/08 • **NGO number:** 054 - 590

The current condition of the R59 is deeply concerning. A section of the road near Viljoenskroon has been closed for an extended period due to flooding, while large sections of the road between Viljoenskroon and Vredefort are severely damaged and riddled with potholes. As a result, motorists are forced to make use of a detour through Viljoenskroon.

AfriForum has previously submitted correspondence to the Free State Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport raising concerns about the unacceptable condition of this road and the apparent incompetence of the contractor appointed to conduct repairs on the R59 and Fortuna Road project (letter attached). According to our observations, the work carried out thus far is of poor quality and progress on this critical infrastructure project has been extremely limited.

The situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the streets within Viljoenskroon itself are in a severely deteriorated state. The maintenance of these roads is the responsibility of the Moqhaka Local Municipality, yet it is evident that adequate maintenance is not being carried out.

Due to the poor condition of the R59, thousands of visitors will be forced to travel through Viljoenskroon, where they will encounter similarly damaged roads. This creates a significant safety risk for road users.

The NAMPO Harvest Day attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year and makes a substantial economic contribution to the Free State. Farmers, agricultural vehicles, trucks, tourists and residents will all be using these roads during this period.

Government has a clear responsibility to ensure that public infrastructure is maintained and safe for use. The current situation represents a serious failure to uphold this responsibility. AfriForum therefore urgently calls on the following authorities to take immediate action:

- South African National Roads Agency
- Free State Provincial Government
- Moqhaka Local Municipality

We specifically request that:

1. Emergency repairs to the R59 be prioritised immediately.
2. The quality of work performed by the appointed contractor be investigated.
3. The streets within Viljoenskroon be repaired and properly maintained.
4. A clear timeline be communicated to the public regarding when these roads will be restored to safe conditions before the start of the NAMPO Harvest Day.

Should road users suffer vehicle damage or become involved in accidents as a result of the dangerous condition of these roads, the responsible authorities may be held accountable for failing to maintain public infrastructure.

AfriForum requests written feedback within **seven days** outlining what steps will be taken to address this matter.

Kind regards

Jaco Grobbelaar
District Head: Central District
AfriForum
Cell: 066 565 8106
Email: jaco.grobbelaar@afriforum.co.za

