

20 April 2026

Mr K. Khumbe
Municipal Manager
JB Marks Local Municipality
35 Wolmarans Street
POTCHEFSTROOM
2531

Dear Mr Khumbe

URGENT NOTICE: DEMAND FOR REPAIR OF HIGH-RISK POTHOLES IN POTCHEFSTROOM (NWU CAMPUS AND SURROUNDING AREA)

AfriForum Youth's Potchefstroom (Puk) branch hereby wants to formally raise our serious concern regarding the deteriorating condition of roads in Potchefstroom, with specific reference to the areas surrounding the North-West University (NWU) campus and surrounding student-populated zones.

The increasing prevalence of potholes in these areas has reached a critical level. What was once an inconvenience has now become a significant threat to the safety of motorists, students, pedestrians and the broader community. Road users are exposed to unavoidable risks, vehicle damage and financial loss daily as a direct result of insufficient road maintenance.

On 16 April 2026, AfriForum Youth's Puk branch conducted an on-site assessment and identified ten (10) high-risk potholes in key areas. These potholes were visibly marked with warning signage, including boards reading "Welcome to Potholestroom," to both alert motorists and clearly indicate to the Municipality where urgent intervention is required.

The identified high-risk areas include, but are not limited to:

- 72 Hoffman St, Potchefstroom
- 56 Rissik St, Potchefstroom
- 54 Rissik St, Potchefstroom
- 59A Molen Street, Corner of Molen and Meyer St, Potchefstroom
- 41 Molen St, Potchefstroom
- 47 Meyer St, Potchefstroom
- 44 Meyer St, Potchefstroom
- 25 Chief Albert Luthuli Dr, Potchefstroom
- 139 Steve Biko St, Potchefstroom
- 25 Esselen St, Potchefstroom

This action formed part of a broader awareness initiative reflecting the frustration of students and residents, who have indicated that they are no longer willing to accept the current state of municipal infrastructure.

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From both a legal and constitutional perspective, the current situation is deeply concerning. The Municipality holds a clear obligation to maintain public infrastructure in a safe and functional condition, in line with its service delivery mandate. The continued failure to adequately maintain roads may constitute negligence, particularly where damage and risk are foreseeable and preventable.

In light of the above, we hereby formally demand the following:

1. Immediate prioritisation and repair of the identified high-risk potholes.
2. Completion of these repairs within 30 (thirty) days from the date of this letter.
3. The implementation of a transparent and sustainable road maintenance plan to prevent further deterioration.
4. Provision of regular feedback to the public regarding progress made, timelines and any challenges encountered.

We wish to emphasise that this letter serves not only as a call for urgent action but also as a formal notice of concern. Should the Municipality fail to address these issues within the stipulated timeframe, AfriForum Youth reserves the right to pursue further steps to ensure accountability and the protection of road users. Safe and functional roads are not a luxury, they are a basic right and a fundamental component of effective service delivery. The current state of infrastructure in Potchefstroom is unacceptable and immediate intervention is required.

We trust that the Municipality will treat this matter with the urgency it deserves and act decisively to restore safe road conditions.

Kind regards

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