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80/20 SURFACING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION IN FULL SWING

Following a successful hosting of the Eastern Cape Rural Roads Summit earlier this month, the Department of Roads and Transport has started the massive implementation of the strategic decision taken at the summit to turn around the existing split of surfaced to gravel roads (20:80) to a 80:20 split whereby 80 percent of the road network will be surfaced and 20 percent will be gravel within the next ten years.

In order to achieve this target, the department has embarked on an aggressive programme of upgrading low volume gravel roads to surfaced standard, which include the following strategic interventions:

- Establishment of a project team to drive the Low Volume Upgrading Programme (80/20 Surfacing Strategy)
- Recapitalise the department's fleet of plant (R20 million already spent)
- Increase capacity for departmental construction units
- Provincial roll out of rural road maintenance contracts.