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City of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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## Media Statement

### JOBURG'S EXTENSIVE PLANS TO REPAIR FLOOD DAMAGE AND UPGRADE ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

19 March 2014

For Immediate Release

**Johannesburg, Gauteng, SA.** The City of Johannesburg has extensive plans to repair flood damage and upgrade road infrastructure.

The **Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)** has estimated R23million is needed to repair the City's damaged road infrastructure network, including potholes and storm water drains, and repairs and rehabilitation of bridges and culverts at an estimated R37million. "This is due the higher than average rainfall patterns across the city damaging road surfaces, bridges, culverts and gabions," explains **JRA Managing Director, Mr Skhumbuzo Macozoma**.

On 18 October 2013, the executive mayor of City of Johannesburg Councillor Mpho Parks Tau announced a three year project – a R1.8-billion facelift for Johannesburg road infrastructures.

This includes the upgrading of highways and byways, and rebuilding and fixing of road infrastructure to alleviate current traffic congestion, lower the cost of doing business, attract investment, and now the flood damage repairs.

The M1 and M2 highways, and the major arteries serving commercial hubs such as Sandton and Rosebank, and the Soweto Highway will be the major beneficiaries of this extensive road infrastructure upgrade.

Directors:  
Chairman: K Shubane, Managing Director: DS Macozoma, CFO: G Mbatha,  
Non-Executive Directors: M Maimane, A Torres, M Dlamini, N Msezane, E Ngomane, L  
Mashamaite, L Nxumalo, H Mashele, Company Secretary: K Mills

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

The community will also benefit from the construction of three bridges namely Naledi Bridge linking the communities of Protea North with Naledi, Le Roux bridge in Midrand, and the Alexandra Pedestrian bridge. Gravel roads to receive an upgrade in the current financial year include those in the Diepsloot, Ivory Park, Braamfisherville, Tshepisong, Lawley, Orange Farm, and Doornkop/Thulani areas. The programme will be extended to Protea South and Drieziek in the next financial year.

These infrastructure development projects are undertaken by the JRA, a self-contained company owned by the City which is responsible for the design, maintenance, repair and development of Joburg's road network and storm-water infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, traffic lights and signage.

“The R60 million funds allocated for flood damage will include on-going maintenance, upgrading and replacement of infrastructure with the emphasis on the communities' immediate needs,” says Macozoma.

In Johannesburg parts of Soweto, Lenasia, Roodepoort, Midrand and Florida were affected by the recent heavy rainfall, flooding roads, damaging bridges and stormwater drains and causing some rivers to overflow.

During the rains, the disaster management team activated a joint operations centre in Roodepoort, where several municipal entities worked together. This team included Joburg Water, the JRA, metro police, emergency management, social development, housing and urban development.

This followed on the heels of Joburg hosting the fifth biennial C40 Cities Mayors Summit early in February this year, where over 60 cities from across the world collaborated to share new insights and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action towards climate change.

The Summit addressed a wide range of climate change projects in Joburg including infrastructure and building efficiency standards for an adaptable and resilient city, sustainable transport measures, and other green growth practices and programmes.

The heavy rains pushed forward the City's agendas, and nine bridges have been prioritised for reconstruction and upgrades to ensure safe passage for vehicles and pedestrians, and to prevent any further loss or injury.

The following bridges/culverts have been prioritised:

- Main Road culvert, Riverbend Agricultural Holdings
- Felstead Road culvert, Northriding
- Third Street culvert
- Watercombe Street culvert
- Cornelius Road culvert over Klein Jukskei River
- Ballyclare Drive bridge over Braamfontein Spruit, Bryanston
- Niven Road culvert, Douglasdale
- Riverside Road bridge, Ivory Park
- Coleraine Drive culvert, Sandton

The JRA apologises for any inconvenience caused during construction phases, "This is however necessary to ensure safe access to workplaces and resident areas," says Macozoma.

In addition to the bridge rehabilitation, as a result of the rains, the JRA team is working seven days a week repairing 12703 potholes, 37545 patchings, and clearing, unblocking and performing minor repairs on some 887 storm water drains and ensuring that the City's 2114 traffic signals are working across the city regions.

The JRA encourages residents to report all road and storm water related issues, including potholes to 0860 562 874/ [hotline@jra.org.za](mailto:hotline@jra.org.za) / twitter @MyJra.

**ENDS**

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#### **About the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)**

The JRA is a City-owned agency responsible for the maintenance, repair and development of Johannesburg's road network and storm water infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, traffic lights and signage.

The organisation is committed to providing quality roads that are accessible, safe and liveable for our communities.

***The JRA encourages residents to report road and storm water issues to 0860 562 874/ [hotline@jra.org.za](mailto:hotline@jra.org.za) / twitter @MyJra so that we may be of service.***

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