



Only 25 per cent of the road network in Naxxar is properly surfaced – Naxxar mayor Anglu Xuereb (right). On left the poor condition of one of the streets in the locality.

Naxxar mayor highlights bad state of village roads

Road works estimated at Lm2m

No fewer than 138 out of Naxxar's 188 roads are badly in need of repairs, resurfacing or construction works. The village's mayor put the estimated cost of such road works yesterday at Lm2 million.

But the Department of Local Councils has only Lm770,000 in funds to distribute to all the councils for road resurfacing works, Mr Angelo Xuereb said.

"Residents paid their contributions towards road maintenance years ago," he said.

"In fact, infrastructural contributions to the Planning Authority have increased over the years but you wonder where all the money is going.

"The council feels that the government is abusing people's

money because it is not fulfilling its obligations towards the upkeep of roads but is using the money in other projects."

Mr Xuereb called on the government to fulfil its road obligations in the area as soon as possible or refund the contributors' money so work can be carried out immediately.

The mayor was speaking at a news conference to present two reports on the state of the roads in the area.

The reports were drawn up by works inspector Anton Vella with the council. The move followed the overwhelming number of complaints received by

the council regarding the state of roads.

Only 25 per cent of the road network in Naxxar is properly surfaced with tarmac and even these are not all in the best condition, Mr Xuereb said.

The first report is an analysis of 54 roads which have never had any asphaltting and which carry only temporary water services.

The report revealed that even waste collection trucks refuse to drive through along the unsurfaced roads causing further

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inconveniences to the residents. Some of these roads have been in this state for more than 15 years, even though now over 75 per cent of the plots along them have been built, the mayor said.

Construction of the roads will cost Lm 671,692, not including services, expropriations, filling in, excavations, and the building of walls.

This amount includes Lm282,310 for blacktop surfacing, Lm137,320 for footways and Lm252,062 for levelling.

The report was officially presented to Transport Minister Michael Frendo and the Director of the Roads Department last April but to date nothing has been done, the mayor said.

"However there have been indications that some roads near the Salina area might be repaired soon," he said.

The second report examines 84 roads which are in need of resurfacing at a cost of Lm851,399.

Blacktop surfacing for urban and the non-urban roads would cost a total of Lm541,602. Construction of pavements in the

urban roads would cost Lm74,837, while other footways and water culverts would cost Lm113,152.

This report was presented last month to the Department of Local Councils.

Naxxar council is also calling on the Transport Ministry to open an artery road from Salina to Naxxar via Birguma bypass to replace the existing one which passes via the church square.

The road would link the main roads from Salina to the Sta Venera bypass via Birguma bypass, l-Iklin, and Birkirkara bypass and would run across Malta east to west.

The council plans to convert the church square into a pedestrian zone.