

Dear Honourable Ms Nkopane, [5 Dec 2025]

At the meeting on 3 December between ACC Technical Team mandated by the Petitioners and SANRAL, I heard you asking for the view of ACC on the opinion piece of Brian Ashley in Mail and Guardian on 3 December. I saw now that the coordinator of our technical team, Malcolm Campbell, heard that you wanted the Petitioners to comment.

Comments from Petitioners

I answer as spokesperson of ACC but will also say something about what Petitioners and all the people they represent think about it, although there haven't been a community meeting about it.

The opinion piece was on Amadiba What's Up groups with hundreds of members. The comments were positive. People especially shared the opinion that SANRAL must communicate directly with the community. Many pointed out that WMMLM and SANRAL haven't met representatives of the community to discuss the demands in the **12 May Amadiba Memorandum**.

The background is that our MEC Mr Nqatha was invited to a mass meeting on 7 July. At the end, he directed SANRAL and WMMLM to sit down to talk with the organisers of the 12 May march "within 14 days" about the memorandum. WMMLM emailed me in beginning of November. They wanted a "stakeholder" meeting. I consulted with leaders. I replied that the meeting should be as MEC Mr Nqatha prescribed. We proposed 26, 27 or 28 November. There was no response.

ACC did not ask Brian Ashley to write his article. He did it himself. He had the right to do so, and SANRAL had the right to respond. Pondoland Times picked up SANRAL's response and wrote about it: [SANRAL defends Amadiba talks after ACC media claims - Pondoland Times](#) That article was also on the large Amadiba WhatsApp groups. I was not surprised people commented that SANRAL is wrong. But this is how it should work. First there is an opinion piece criticising a mighty power like SANRAL. Then SANRAL responds and tries to rebut everything.

Rules of the bilateral meetings directed to by the PC on Transport

I have seen no directive from the Portfolio Committee on Transport that the bilateral meetings with SANRAL were secret or confidential. The meetings have had no such conditions. You as chair, Hon. Ms Nkopane, started the meetings saying that parliamentary rules apply. SANRAL can correctly quote anything that I or ACC TT members said. I have done my best to keep the 78 other Petitioners informed on what SANRAL has said and what we have said. As representatives, we are accountable.

The demand for a 'Midterm evaluation' was public since 12 MAY

Having said that, there is nothing in Ashley's opinion piece that has not been in the public domain since 12 May 2025, like the call for a "Mid Term Review". The Petition is public. Brian Ashley has no doubt read it. But we have argued the same since 12 May with support in the whole of Amadiba.

In the very public Amadiba Memorandum you will find the headline WHY THESE DEMANDS ARE PUT FORWARD" and it says: *"The N2 Wild Coast Toll Highway project needs an open-minded MIDTERM EVALUATION to make necessary changes and move it forward without galloping cost increases, rampant corruption and interdicts against community members, who just like all in Amadiba demand that SANRAL steps forward to be accountable."*

SANRAL's road to the meetings as directed by the PC of Transport

The only thing in the opinion piece about the meetings led by the Portfolio Committee on Transport is that SANRAL has been "compelled" to sit in at the meetings.

This is not a “misrepresentation” as SANRAL argued in Pondoland Times. SANRAL was compelled by a Parliament committee to have difficult talks with mandated representatives of Amadiba Petitioners. SANRAL could not refuse. I would not describe SANRAL’s position as “SANRAL defending Amadiba talks” like Pondoland Times does. But newspapers set headlines as they wish.

Previous efforts to engage SANRAL

To further understand the long deadlock with SANRAL, please read the **Letter to the President**. It is on link in the Petition to Parliament, but I now attach it separately.

At the end of the Letter there is a dialogue with SANRAL’s CEO Mr Demana. It happened after a truly confidential meeting SANRAL had at Wild Coast Sun in August 2024. On the agenda was: *“Strategic Response to the hindrances posed by Amadiba Crisis Committee challenges on N2WCR”*. When this leaked, Cromwell Sonjica and I wrote to Mr Demana and asked to meet immediately.

Mr Demana replied: *“Your email and request are hereby acknowledged. We will consider and revert in due course. I want to state here that we are open to meeting any interested and affected stakeholder on the project, including ACC”*. We then suggested a meeting on any date within three weeks after 2 September 2024. There was no response.

The time was not “due” until SANRAL was directed by the Portfolio Committee on Transport. I have missed SANRAL’s CEO Mr Reginald Demana at the meetings.

I guess Pondoland Times also wanted to be objective. Under a picture from the 12 May protected march they wrote: *Amadiba community members hand over their memorandum to Ms Ntomboxolo Thafeni from the Department of Transport, accompanied by WMM Local Municipality Speaker Mr Mhlwathi. SANRAL representatives did not attend.*

It is correct. SANRAL did not attend to receive the memorandum directed to SANRAL.

Before the march, SANRAL and WMMLM challenged SAPS protocol in Mbizana. Applicants, those concerned by a protest and WMMLM should always attend a meeting before a protected march. Instead, an Advocate Mr Ximbi arrived. He said he represented MECSA/CCCC. He said the march must be forbidden. Property at the Mtentu bridge site would be destroyed. Lt Col Freemantle answered this was nonsense. He said he has years of experience of marches ACC has been involved in or organised. He said that ACC is an example to communities in Mbizana who have grievances.

Other SANRAL engagements in Amadiba still outstanding

Another demand in the Amadiba Memorandum was: *“SANRAL to appear at Dangen and Xolobeni Komkhulu within a month at imbizos to have orderly and disciplined discussions and present its project in Amadiba after ACC and appointed experts have presented a proposal for moving the new N2 to the centre of Amadiba”*.

Maybe the suggested order in the imbizo agenda was over the mark. But you should understand where it comes from. It reflects the sentiment in Amadiba as expressed in the Petition to Parliament.

We trust in fact that SANRAL eventually will come to Komkhulu. It will happen “in due course”.

Respectfully Yours,

Nonhle Mbuthuma