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Department:
Economic Development, Environment,
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MEDIA STATEMENT

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PENDING CLOSURE OF BUFFALO LODGE RESTURANT AND FOOD LOVERS MARKET IN MAHIKENG PROMPT MEC BITSA LENKOPANE'S DECISIVE INTERVENTION

The MEC of Economic Development Environment Conservation and Tourism in the North West Province has taken a decision to intervene at Buffalo Lodge, GLR and Food Lovers Market.

Food Lovers Market

Food lovers Market is a popular grocery and vegetable outlet stationed at Mega City in Mahikeng. The news of pending closure of this important food outlet prompted MEC Bitsa Lenkopane to intervene with the sole objective of preventing possible job losses and livelihoods. According to the outcome of the meeting with management of Food Lovers Market, the lease signed between the company and Mega City Management has come to an end and negotiations of renewal have failed.

Other risk factors such as security concerns have contributed to the pending closure of Food Lovers Market. It is envisaged that another popular brand Boxer Superstore will occupy the space where Food Lovers Market is situated at Mega City. However, MEC Bitsa Lenkopane was able to negotiate the absorption of Food Lovers Market employees into Boxer Superstore.

Buffalo Lodge

In another separate event, MEC Bitsa Lenkopane received a call from the employees of another popular eatery in Mahikeng, Buffalo Lodge, which is also facing possible closure. Close to 20 staff members are likely to lose their jobs.

North West government, represented by MEC Bitsa Lenkopane, is currently negotiating with owners of Buffalo Lodge with the objective of allowing employees to be incubated into business management programs and continue to run the place.

Golden Leopards Resort

The Acting Head of Department Relebohile Mofokane's addressed employees at the Golden Leopard Resort (GLR) amid challenges faced by the entity. The department has turned the tide at GLR where the entity has been swimming in a sea of financial mismanagement and debts for the past three years.

Employees had to go home empty handed for several months with the entity failing to pay their salaries and their third party deductions that include tax and provident funds amongst others. Many passed on and/or retired without any payouts.

In the past six months the department managed to settle all third party deductions and made provisions for salaries. The MEC is confident that GLR will perform better in the new financial year.

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